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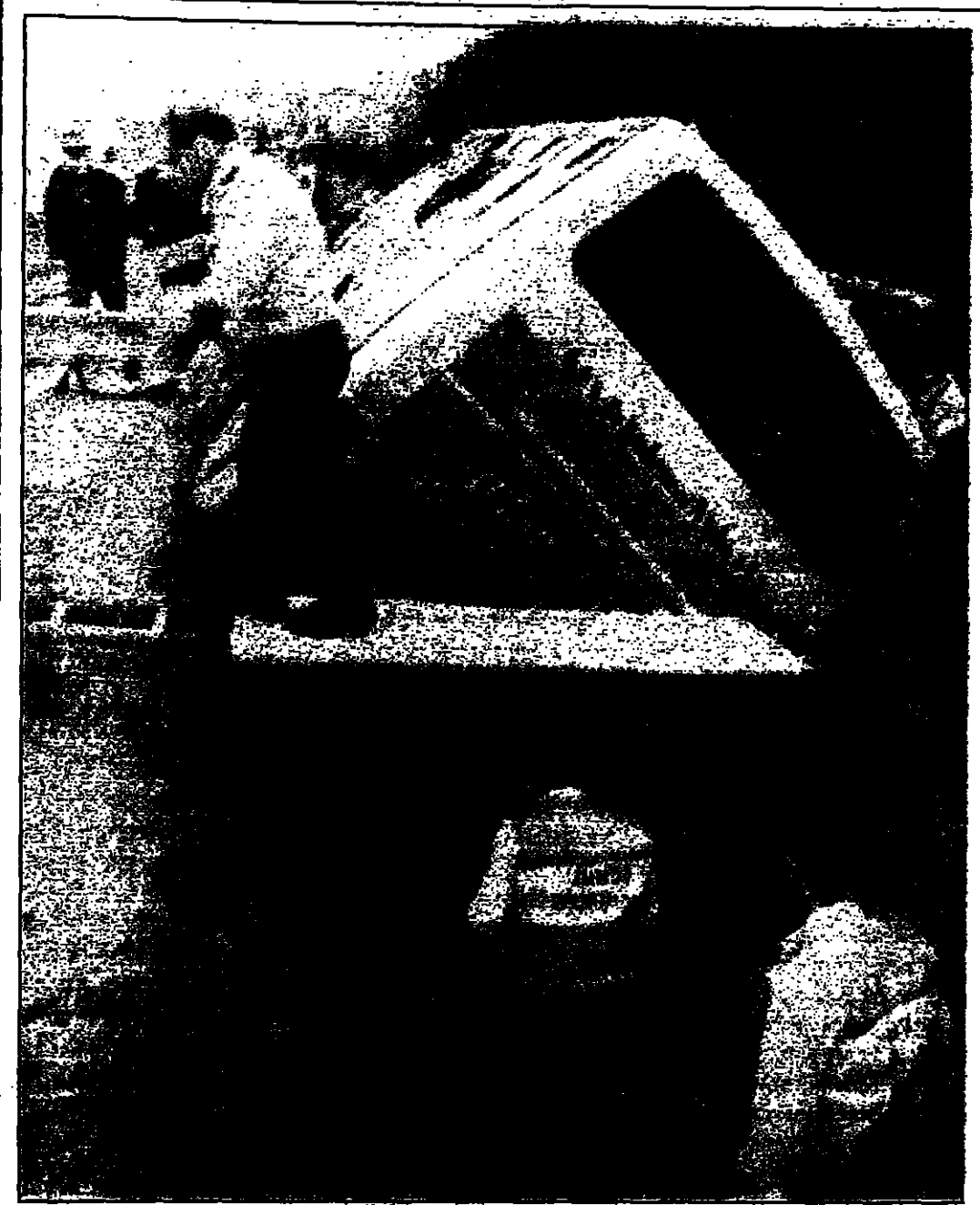
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Lucky escape
Seven passengers were lightly injured yesterday when this private bus, carrying 35, ran off the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway on a curve near Sha'ar Hagai. (Stein/Harari)

UN inspectors check Iraqi presidential site

BAHGDAD (Reuters) - United Nations weapons inspectors made their first visit to Baghdad's Radwaniyah presidential compound yesterday, and accompanying diplomats praised Iraq's cooperation.

"Teams saw everything they wanted to see," said Horst Holthoff, a retired German diplomat. "I am personally impressed by the spirit of cooperation of the Iraqi side."

"We started at nine o'clock in the morning and came back at five o'clock," Cui Tiankai, a Chinese diplomat based in New York, told reporters.

Arrangements for the inspection of eight disputed "presidential sites" - with diplomats accompanying the inspectors - were set out in an agreement signed last month in Baghdad by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Iraqi leaders. The accord defused a major crisis between Iraq and the UN and averted the threat of imminent air strikes against Iraq.

Under the accord Iraq pledged to allow the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, into the sites to look for material related to Iraq's banned weapons programs.

The inspectors yesterday entered the Radwaniyah complex, on the edge of Saddam International Airport about 15 km. west of central Baghdad, in a convey of at least 20 UNSCOM vehicles and more than a dozen escort cars from Iraq's National Monitoring Directorate.

Twenty senior diplomats are in Baghdad to accompany the inspectors, addressing Iraq's request that its symbols of national sovereignty be respected during the inspections. The diplomatic team is led by Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka, the UN undersecretary-general for disarmament, who was appointed by Annan.

See BUTLER, Page 12

Netanyahu on eve of Ross visit: I can't accept a diktat

By JAY BUSHINSKY

On the eve of his meeting with US peace envoy Dennis Ross, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took a tough stance on the next redeployment.

"I can't accept a diktat. We have our principles. We're not deceiving anyone - not ourselves, not the voters, not the Palestinians, and not the Americans. It's not my intention to prevent [the United States] from raising ideas - they should only raise the right ideas," he told Israel Radio.

Ross is expected to present an American plan recommending that Israel withdraw from 13 percent of the West Bank area under its control and calling for a "time out" in settlement activity beyond the Green Line.

Immediately after his arrival last night, Ross met with President Ezer Weizman. No details of the meeting were revealed.

A senior government official refused to relate to reports that Netanyahu is willing to go beyond the cabinet's recommendation that the pullback be limited to 9% of the territory.

Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, dismissed the notion that the US plan already has been turned down because the cabinet consensus reached last Sunday was an

implicit rejection of the American proposals.

"The American plan is not known to us first hand," Bar-Ilan said. "We never received it. All that we know about it is based on reports in the press and reports from our neighbors who say they have received it." He mentioned Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian

want that Israel is "not seeking confrontation. Our objective is to break the stalemate and move forward."

But sources in the PA indicated that rank-and-file Palestinians are totally unimpressed by the percentage of territory Israel is prepared to relinquish and uninterested in the latest Israeli sweetener: redrawing the withdrawal map to offer contiguous areas rather than scattered and disconnected parcels of the West Bank.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that President Bill Clinton has decided to unveil the American peacekeeping package, despite Israel's objections. The paper said Clinton did so because he became convinced that the "flagging" Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are on the verge of collapse and that this would cause "substantial harm to US regional interests."

Bar-Ilan shrugged off the various percentages which have been cited by local and foreign correspondents. "Netanyahu does not discuss numbers," he said, adding that the scope of the projected pullback would be decided "only on the basis of [Israel's] security considerations and concerns and that these concerns can be determined by Israel and Israel alone."

He said this axiom "has been recognized by all US administrations since that of president Gerald Ford in 1975."

For its part, the PA has not committed itself to the American plan. Palestinian commentators said the offer of "quality instead of quantity" is "ridiculous." One journalist said the Palestinians would accept any terrain Israel is willing to give up, "even 5% if that is all that [Netanyahu] is offering us at this stage."

Liat Collins adds: MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who heads a forum of moderates in the coalition, has called on the prime minister not to give in to the diktats of MKs on the Right and to continue the diplomatic process.

Bronfman said the entire Knesset would support any real diplomatic move and "therefore the threats of the extreme Right are empty."

Bronfman's forum comprises some 20 MKs. He said delaying the process could have serious consequences and called on the government to determine the size of the second redeployment.

His expression of support followed an emergency meeting of the Land of Israel Front, led by MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), which warned Netanyahu that any additional withdrawal would mean the government would fall immediately after the Knesset reconvenes from its spring recess, when the front's members join in a no-confidence motion.

State Department officials meet settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A US State Department task force has been meeting with settlers and PA officials over the past three days.

Last night, officials from the US Consulate and the US State Department met with settlers in Dolev for two hours, quizzing them about their daily routine and lifestyle and asking to hear their views and concerns on the future of the settlements in the western Binyamin region.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, who represented the council as well as her own community, Beit Horon, said three other settlers from Dolev and Neveh Tsuf were present. Tayar said that Dolev, Talmon, Neveh Tsuf, and Beit Horon would be endangered if the Arab villages surrounding them are placed in Area A (under full Palestinian

control) in a further redeployment.

She said the settlers were asked to introduce themselves and talk about their communities. One of the questions they were asked by US officials was how their children feel about living in their communities. "They were seeking to gain a better understanding of our daily lives and how we perceive the future," she said.

The settlers, she said, showed maps and stressed that peace for them means coexistence.

Settlement leaders called off last night's planned protest vigil after learning that US envoy Dennis Ross would arrive late. Tayar warned that if reports claiming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was considering a double-digit withdrawal and granting the Palestinians land contiguity, were true, "all hell would break loose."

PA won't buy 'quality'

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been spawning political euphemisms since its inception - either to conceal diplomatic deadlock or create the impression of impetus rather than inertia.

This may explain the reemergence of "quality rather than quantity" as an inducement for the Palestinian Authority to accept less territory than it believes it should be getting at this stage of the interim agreement.

Its author is National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who introduced it more than two weeks ago in the context of his effort to reduce the prospective redeployment to no more than 9 percent of the West Bank.

But Sharon, who is expected to return from Paris today, has not been involved in the preparations for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with US envoy Dennis Ross and has not been consulted about the extent to which Ross might be talked into

accepting a compromise somewhere between Israel's 9% and the US' 13%.

In any case, there is good reason to doubt that the "quality rather than quantity" offer will fly. It is meant to offer such goodies as "territorial contiguity" between key Palestinian population centers, but there have been no public indications the PA leadership will accept it.

There is a school of thought in the West Bank which contends that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat would be wise to accept any percentage proposed by Israel, and get on with the peace process. But it is unlikely to prevail.

Netanyahu, who resents the fact that the Clinton administration has come up with its own plan for breaking the deadlock, may prefer to let it fail in the hope that it will be the last such American effort. Under such circumstances, the "quality rather than quantity" proposal also may vanish.

ANALYSIS

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Teen cancer patient meets Seinfeld

By TOM TUGEND and JUDY SEGEL

When 13-year-old Ayal Beer of Rehovot spent almost all of last year at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva for treatment of his acute leukemia, the ordeal of chemotherapy and a bone-marrow transplant was brightened by watching every episode of the Seinfeld show.

So when volunteers from Israel's branch of the Make-a-

Wish Foundation - which tries to fulfill the requests of children with life-threatening illnesses - asked Ayal for his fondest wish, he had a ready answer: to meet Jerry Seinfeld and watch him tape a show.

On Wednesday night, his dream came true. Accompanied by his parents Nettie and Leo and one of his sisters, Ayal watched in fascination for over three hours as the cast taped one of their last shows on the tightly guarded set at CBS-TV studios. The most unforgettable part for Ayal was when the star walked over to the family for a brief chat.

"It was great. I actually got to meet Jerry," Ayal said later. "I told him how much I liked his show and gave him a T-shirt saying 'I Met Ayal Beer' in front and 'Jerry' on the back."

Seinfeld was amazed that the Israeli spoke such accentless English, but they explained that the parents, both native New Yorkers, made aliyah in 1975.

The Make-a-Wish Foundation was founded in Phoenix, Arizona in 1980. Its Israeli branch - one of 20 around the world - was set up only a year ago by Denise and

Avi Bar-Aharon. They moved here from Los Angeles and established their own fashion import and export company in Ra'anana. Denise's brother David Spero died from cancer seven years ago at 29, and before he passed away, he asked her to work with dying children.

Three years later, they set up the Israeli branch of Make-a-Wish, which depends on 100 volunteers and local contributions. During its first year of operation, it has granted 44 wishes to seriously ill children, the latest being Ayal.

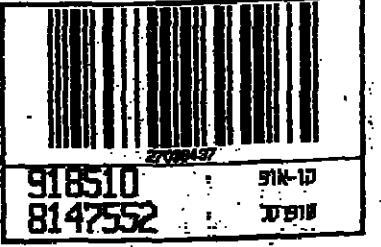
One of the most publicized cases was that of Yoni Dotan, a cancer patient and son of entertainer Dudu Dotan, who last year was granted his wish of meeting

President Bill Clinton in the White House. The president not only promised to wear the T-shirt Yoni gave him (declaring "I know Yoni Dotan"), but he kept his promise and, while on vacation, was actually photographed wearing it.

By pulling the right strings, Make-a-Wish/Israel (known in Hebrew as *Mishel Lev*) volunteer Beth Lieberman arranged for Ayal's inclusion in the taping of Seinfeld, in addition to the family's being picked up at LA's airport in a limousine, accommodations in a luxury hotel, and a visit to Disneyland.

The organization can be reached at POB 2478, Ra'anana, telephone 09-7602850 and fax 09-7602851.

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:17 p.m.	7:32 p.m.
Tel Aviv	6:35 p.m.	7:34 p.m.
Haifa	6:28 p.m.	7:33 p.m.
Beersheba	6:33 p.m.	7:32 p.m.
Eilat	6:34 p.m.	7:33 p.m.



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NEWS

in brief

Cobra wreckage recovered

Despite rough seas, navy divers yesterday managed to raise the main body and tail of the Cobra attack helicopter that crashed into the sea last week, the IDF Spokesman said. The salvage effort had been delayed by bad weather. The divers will continue searching for other parts of the helicopter.

Jerusalem Post Staff

IDF shelling wounds two Lebanese civilians

Israeli artillery shells, fired in retaliation for a Hizbullah attack on a South Lebanese Army post, landed in the Shiite village of Barachit north of the security zone yesterday wounding two civilians, one a 14-year-old boy, reports from Lebanon said.

There were no injuries or damage in the Hizbullah attack, the army said, adding that both SLA and IDF artillery fired at Hizbullah targets.

Arieh O'Sullivan and agencies

IAF to buy upgrade technology for Apache

Israel is to become only the third country - after Britain and the Netherlands - to be allowed to buy US Longbow upgrade technology for the IAF's Apache helicopters, according to the latest issue of *Jane's Defense Weekly*. The package includes the Hellfire missile system, with associated radar and radio-frequency seekers, electronic warfare systems and an improved cockpit.

Douglas Davis

Barak won't oppose ending primaries

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday fanned the flames of discord in his party by seeking to put them out. He announced that he was against moves to cancel Labor's primaries for Knesset candidates, but was roundly criticized for playing a double game and for not committing himself to nip the initiative in the bud.

At a stormy session of the party's political bureau, Barak made it clear that he will take no steps to foil the attempts to do away with the Knesset primaries. He did call for party unity and stated that he was "always for, and I still am for the primaries. But I will not muzzle free expression in the party. We are a democratic organization and members may initiate and support whatever they deem right. We are all emissaries and not masters who impose their will on the underlings."

The overwhelming consensus in Labor was that Barak had borrowed a leaf from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's book. In the name of democracy, Netanyahu also did not move against attempts to do away with

the Likud's primaries and they were scrapped.

Barak was seen as telling the bureau members that he will take no action against any initiative. Thus, even if the initiative eventually fails, it could be used as a whip to keep dissenting MKs in line and threaten troublemakers like party secretary-general Raanan Cohen and MK Haggai Merom.

As was the case in the Likud last autumn, the outcry against the primaries is coming from party activists. Leading them is Shiri Weizman who heads Labor's southern district.

He told the bureau that "the rank and file has had enough of the disorder which the primaries system is introducing to the party. There is no discipline any more. The system encourages warfare inside the party. Anyone who cares about the welfare of this party should wish this system out of our arena. All those who now attack anyone who shares my opinion and who heap perjorative upon us, should remember that if it were not for us, they would not be where they are."

Weizman and his allies are all



Ehud Barak makes a point at yesterday's Labor Party political bureau meeting. (Gila Oren/Photo/Israel Sun)

associated with MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, whom many in the party accuse of being covertly behind the anti-primary campaign. Ben-Eliezer was furious at these accusations and challenged "all the wagging tongues to identify

themselves. I call on all the hiding heroes to come out and say their piece in the open. These are false charges."

The bureau also approved earlier decisions by party forums not to challenge Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni

Milo in the upcoming municipal elections. This drew sharp fire from MK Uzi Baram, who asserted that had Labor fielded a candidate against Milo, he would have agreed to run against incumbent Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem.

Arafat to ask for a 'sizable and credible' pullback

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NALIB and news agencies

In meetings today with US envoy Dennis Ross, the Palestinians plan to demand a three-phased "sizable and credible" withdrawal and a freeze in settlement building, a senior aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday.

Arafat was also expected to press

Ross to divulge details of a US proposal for about a 13% withdrawal to be carried out over 12 weeks. The Palestinians have hinted

that they would agree, to the figure provided Israel implemented yet another pullback afterwards.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, Arafat's aide, said he didn't expect a breakthrough from Ross' latest mission.

Arafat's meeting with Ross was postponed until today after a delay in the diplomat's arrival last night.

European Envoy Miguel Moratinos met with Arafat last night about the peace process.

Afterwards Abu Rudeineh said that while the US had asked the Europeans to delay putting forward their initiative, the Palestinians hoped that the US

would formally present their proposal as soon as possible.

PA Secretary Taib Abdel Rahim said Mauratnos had contacted the PA earlier to set up the meeting.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials rejected an Israeli suggestion to offer territorial contiguity - or to link up the towns of Jenin and Nablus - and perhaps even Ramallah at the north end of the West Bank and Hebron with surrounding towns in the south, - in exchange for withdrawing from a smaller percentage of land.

See ARAFAT, Page 12

Former aide says Levy will return as FM

By JAY BUSHENSKY

It may not be by chance that David Levy's name still is posted in Hebrew and in English at the entrance to the Foreign Ministry office he occupied until his resignation three months ago.

"He's coming back," one of his former aides said wistfully.

What sounded at first like nostalgia or political mysticism soon took on the trappings of plausibility.

The attitude adopted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toward the next redeployment in the West Bank coincides with Levy's concept, the aide went on. He implied that consent to a double-digit percentage would be right down Levy's alley.

"Besides, Netanyahu needs the five votes that would be added to the coalition if Levy's Geshef faction returned," one of the aides said. "His close proximity of 61 of the 120 MKs is inadequate when such issues as the scope of a West Bank pullback come up."

He contended that Netanyahu is doing "exactly" what Levy advocated last autumn - proposing a withdrawal that comes close to the Clinton administration's recommendation.

Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, did not rule out the possibility of a Levy comeback. "It's possible," he said.

If so, the name on the office door may be harbinger of things to come.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 346874 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 160307 won the car. Tickets 732520, 103450, 120780, 674422, 364895, 649519, 294576 and 011274 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 74507, 10914, 40581, 53087, 52802, 21322, 07684, 39800, 88882, 60147, 12427, 37854, 09599, 62993, 74603, 12313, 63535, 67804 and 45355 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 596,553,558, and 234 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 15,95,25 and 83 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 06 and 70. Tickets ending in 0 and 6 won NIS 10.

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Jerusalem working on boroughs plan

By ELI WOHLGELER

Even while the Jerusalem municipality is planning to introduce a Knesset bill that would create a Greater Jerusalem westward as far as Latrun, it is at the same time working on a plan that would divide up the inner city into seven or eight boroughs in order to better manage city services.

According to Deputy Mayor David Cassuto, who has been coordinating a master plan for the future of the city called Jerusalem 2020, the borough plan - which is just one part of the overall plan - calls for decentralizing aspects of city government in order to allow local councils to better manage their affairs.

"An example would be garbage," he said. "This would mean a new attitude on the part of the city toward the managing of the city. If a borough receives a greater budget and greater responsibilities, then perhaps they will decide how they divide their own budget. This could be one of the proposals - I don't say it is, but maybe." The boroughs plan, which is still being drafted by the city's Division for Strategic Planning and Research, headed by Dr. Sara Herszkowitz, will be ready in a month or so, and will then be brought to Mayor Ehud Olmert.

See BOROUGHS, Page 12

- A withdrawal of 10%-13% will allow the peace process to continue, without harming Israel's security
- The real danger is continued stalemate - every incident could spark a major explosion
- The window of opportunity is fast closing
- The Government of Israel must achieve an agreement, without further delay
- Without initiatives to build trust between the sides, imposed mediation will be inevitable.

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Jerusalem 1510

Annan cancels visit to Al-Aksa

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday canceled a visit to the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, citing a tight timetable.

Annan had hoped to visit the mosque compound shortly before his departure for New York. "Next time when I come I would want to see it," Annan told Israel Radio on his way to the airport.

Adnan Hussein, director of the Waqf, said he was informed late Wednesday that the site had been taken off Annan's schedule. He said no reason was given for the cancellation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said he was unaware of Annan's itinerary. At breakfast, Annan and his wife Nana hosted former UN ambassador Gad Ya'acobi and his wife Nella.

They discussed ways to further the peace process with the Palestinians and the Syrians and the possibility of reaching an arrangement with Lebanon.

They also discussed improving relations between Israel and the UN, and increasing Israeli awareness of the world body's role and importance.

On his way to the airport, Annan stopped at Kfar Habad where he met with children from Chernobyl.



Posing for the cameras before their breakfast yesterday are (from left) former UN ambassador Gad Ya'acobi, Nana Annan, Nella Ya'acobi, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

(Yitzhak Elhanan/Scout 80)

He pledged his support to the organization's Chernobyl relief work. "You have my personal

commitment," he said. "You can count on me."

Annan was presented with a drawing by Chernobyl children who had arrived on Habad's 34th relief flight on Sunday.

Hariri's comments on cooperation welcomed

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense officials welcomed comments by Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in which he hinted he could cooperate with Israel.

In an interview with *The Daily Star*, based in Beirut, Hariri said that Lebanon and Israel could cooperate on a security arrange-

ment, on condition that a peace treaty was signed.

"Should there be a peace treaty, we would be able to cooperate through that treaty on many levels and security may be one of these levels," Hariri was quoted as saying.

"I wanted to make this clear. It is the first time the prime minister has sanctioned in principle, bilat-

eral security arrangements with Israel," Hariri said.

The policy change was welcomed by the Defense Ministry.

"Hariri doesn't reject the possibility of maintaining security arrangements and we see this as a positive sign. He no longer sees this as a rude word," said one defense source, who is intimately involved in Lebanon policy.

No asylum yet for SLA men

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense officials yesterday quietly put off a request for asylum from four South Lebanese Army soldiers, who wrote in a letter that they feared for their lives.

"The fate of SLA men and their families is a political question and not a legal one... Apparently there are some people in the SLA who lack patience," a senior defense official said.

Zvi Rish, a Tel Aviv-based attorney representing the four, said that the men "are living in panic. They see before them an arrangement being made and they don't see anything being done to take care of them. They are accused of treason and as they see it, the arrangements will bring them death."

"We tied our fate to the State of Israel and we protected the settle-

ments of northern Israel with our bodies. Israel is deeply obligated to us," says the soldiers' letter, which was sent to the prime minister, defense minister, interior minister and national infrastructure minister.

The soldiers' identity has been kept confidential to protect them. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech in ZOA House in Tel Aviv last night that Israel would protect its SLA allies.

David Bar-Ilan, director of communications for Netanyahu, said he had not seen the letter and could not comment on the case. But he renewed Israel's pledge not to withdraw from Lebanon before ensuring the safety of its allies.

"We are not going to abandon our friends and we are not going to withdraw unless we make absolutely certain that they will

not be at risk," Bar-Ilan said. Rish estimated there are about 20,000 residents in southern Lebanon who would seek political asylum in Israel in the event of an IDF pullout.

"We shouldn't delude ourselves. If Syrian, Hizbullah or Lebanese forces enter there, then these people will simply be massacred," Rish said. "They want citizenship on the grounds that they contributed to the security of the State of Israel."

According to Rish, no SLA member have previously sought asylum in Israel.

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad was sentenced to death in absentia by a Beirut military court in 1996. Rish said arrangements have been made for Lahad and other top SLA commanders to receive political asylum in France.

Catholic-Jewish liaison committee calls to move Auschwitz cross

By LISA PALMER-BILLIG

The International Catholic-Jewish Liaison Committee, meeting at the Vatican, called yesterday for the cross erected at Auschwitz to be moved "to an appropriate alternative site."

The organization, recognized by the Vatican for dialogue with world Judaism, yesterday concluded four days of discussions with a final joint statement that

included a response to news that Poland's Cardinal Glemp had declared that the cross at Auschwitz was not to be removed.

It expressed "deep concern" and appealed "for the transfer of the cross to an appropriate alternative site."

At a papal audience concluding the discussions, the 50-member ILC greeted a frail but alert-looking John Paul II with warm

applause.

On behalf of the ILC, Cardinal Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, expressed appreciation for the pope's "outstanding leadership... in healing the past wounds that have bedeviled Jewish-Catholic relations" and for his "contribution to the new spirit of cooperation and caring between Catholics and Jews that today replaces the

former spirit of mistrust and suspicion that has been without equal."

Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder, speaking for the Jewish delegation, recalled the strong statements against anti-Semitism made by the pope and in Vatican documents.

Mentioning the positive and negative aspects of the recent Vatican "Reflections on the Shoah" document, he said "It was felt that the self-criticism - for all

its importance - did not go far enough."

Wigoder said "the connection between the long history of anti-Jewish conditioning under Christian auspices and the widespread indifference and even collaboration throughout Europe during the Shoah was not stated unequivocally and with sufficient clarity."

The pope replied without referring to present issues, focussing

instead on "important convergences in Catholic and Jewish understandings of the family" and "the immense progress held out by continuing dialogue between Catholics and Jews."

The final statement noted that, "In discussion of the Vatican's record during the Shoah and the Jewish demand for impartial access to the relevant archival material, Cardinal Cassidy suggested that a joint team of Jewish

and Catholic scholars review the relevant material in the volumes produced by the Catholic scholars covering the historical period concerned, and if questions still remain, they should seek further access to clarification."

This last sentence is considered of particular importance, implying that access to Vatican archives might be granted in response to serious and documented questioning of available material.

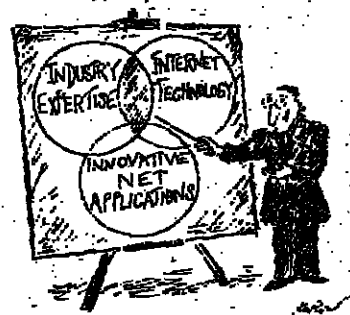
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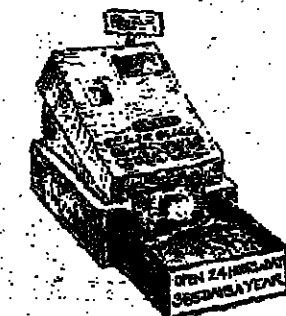
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e-business

Wife jailed for requesting alimony hearing

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The High Court of Justice this morning is to hear the petition of a woman sentenced to two weeks in prison Wednesday by the Petah Tikva Rabbinical Court for asking to discuss an alimony settlement.

"It's hard to believe the rabbinical court can throw a woman, whose only 'crime' was to request a divorce settlement, into prison with murderers, drug addicts, and other criminals, as though she had no rights at all," said Na'amat chairman Ofra Friedman, who petitioned the court to release the woman.

The woman, 62, who asked to remain anonymous, telephoned Friedman from the Neveh Tirza women's prison yesterday and begged for her help. Sick and unemployed, she had recently left home after being beaten by her husband.

The woman said she had arrived at the Petah Tikva Rabbinical

Court for her divorce hearing on Wednesday, wanting only to consult a lawyer and to receive an alimony settlement. Her husband was there with his attorney, but Na'amat sources said that, according to the hearing protocol, Court President David Ohayon would not let her consult a lawyer, or even discuss alimony.

The sources said the court, together with the husband and his attorney, tried to pressure the woman to agree to a divorce with no settlement.

When the woman objected to a divorce under pressure and asked to see a lawyer, Ohayon accused her of "harassing the court" and of "impertinence" and sentenced her to 14 days in prison. He called a policeman who immediately took the woman to jail.

"Almost every day we hear of men who beat their wives to death and don't even get arrested, or are released immediately by the courts," Friedman said yesterday.



Riding the rails

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu receives a lesson in driving a tilting train on its 130 km/h journey from Kiryat Gat to Tel Aviv yesterday.

Justice Barak denies he planned to meet with Shas leaders

By BATHNEVA TSUR

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak yesterday denied reports that he had been scheduled to hold a meeting with Shas leaders.

The denial followed reports that Shas MK Aryeh Deri had hoped to reconcile with Barak following derogatory comments he made about the court last summer.

Deri said in an interview with Army Radio on Wednesday that Meretz MK Dedi Zucker had arranged a meeting between Barak and Shas faction leaders for yesterday.

"I meet regularly with MKs as part of my responsibility as head of the court and also with members of the Knesset committees that deal with legal affairs," Barak told reporters yesterday following a swearing-in ceremony for judges at Beit Hanassi.

He said it was in this context that Zucker had proposed he meet with MKs who had attacked the courts.

The intention, Barak said, was to meet individual MKs, and no names were mentioned. "I never

meet with political factions," Barak clarified. "I have always turned down requests to meet with factions."

Asked whether he would be prepared to meet with Deri - who is currently standing trial in Jerusalem District Court - Barak said: "This is a hypothetical question. I do not think it would be proper for me to respond. It is not on the agenda at present."

In comments made July last year and quoted by the *Ha'arezi* paper, *Yom Le'Yom*, Deri said: "How can an Ashkenazi judge understand the way of thinking of the Sephardi community? How can a secular judge who does not keep the Shabbat, understand the innermost soul of a haredi Jew?"

But this week Deri was full of compliments for Barak.

"If Barak had studied in a yeshiva, he would no doubt have been the greatest scholar of his generation," Deri told the radio Wednesday. "It is clear that he is a very unique personality. When I read his judgments I see his great talents."

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Youth groups protest Agency cuts

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Twenty-two Jewish Agency-funded Zionist youth groups from across the political and religious spectrum have joined together to protest against proposed budget cuts.

Representatives from some of the groups picketed outside the Jewish Agency building yesterday with signs declaring that "There is no Zionist movement without Zionist youth organizations."

"A lot of fundraisers don't appreciate the importance of informal Jewish Zionist education through the work of youth movements, and therefore we're protesting to ensure that the intended cuts in our budget do not materialize," said Yigal Sela, head of the Overseas Department of the United Kibbutz Movement and the organizer of the demonstration. A six-member committee is to meet on April 6 to decide on the budget for the agency's new edu-

cation department, which is being restructured after moving from the World Zionist Organization.

Sela said the current budget for youth groups stands at \$4.8 million, which is 1.5 percent of the total Jewish Agency budget.

"The message we're trying to put across is that, apart from the thousands of immigrants that have come from youth movements, we maintain - and we have proof of it - that many leaders around the world very often are the result of

education they received in youth movements."

Sela said that, by cutting back on organizations that encourage and promote aliya, "the fundraisers are in effect cutting off the branch they're sitting on by cutting off the work we're doing in providing their future leadership." He said he is gratified to see all the different youth groups united, despite their political differences, in trying to have some kind of effect on the decisions being made.

"And I can tell you that letters have been pouring in from all over the world," Sela said, "from the various places where our movements exist, to the members of the committee from parents of kids who belong to the youth movements - from Hungary, Canada, the States, Australia, South Africa, England, France, Belgium - with dozens and dozens of signatures, and faxes too, pleading with the committee not to cut back."

Swiss, State Dept. ask NY to waive bank sanctions

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — As state and local finance officials met yesterday in New York to determine whether to impose sanctions against the Swiss banks, Switzerland and the US State Department issued an unusual joint statement opposing sanctions.

The finance officials, including the New York City comptroller and the treasurer of California, had called in December for a three-month moratorium on sanctions against the Swiss, pending progress on a "global settlement of all issues."

Frantic meetings about a settlement earlier in the week collapsed because the parties could not agree on what principles were at issue, sources said.

The three major Swiss banks face three class-action lawsuits in New York for more than \$20 billion, from survivors and heirs in search of Holocaust-era bank accounts.

Separately, the World Jewish Congress has demanded that the Swiss make "moral and material restitution," in the vicinity of \$3 billion.

In New York yesterday, Elan Steinberg, director of the WJC, told reporters that the WJC did not make any recommendation about sanctions. "We don't believe sanctions help anyone," Steinberg appeared, however, to indicate that the WJC was not satisfied with the turn of events. "At the moment, we do not have

a commitment to return all looted assets or a mechanism to do so," he said.

There was rampant speculation that "all looted assets" would include bank accounts, gold, expropriated art and unpaid insurance policies.

The banks have indicated that any settlement would have to cover the lawsuits, the WJC's demands for restitution and also protect the banks against future claims.

The banks - Union Bank of Switzerland, Credit Suisse and Swiss Bank Corporation - also have indicated that a settlement would deal only with assets in the banks. The commercial banks say the Swiss government bears responsibility for any settlement concerning its receipt of \$450 million in Nazi-looted gold during World War II.

Swiss government and bank officials, as well as US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, were scheduled to meet with state and local finance officials yesterday.

New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi said before the meeting of city officials yesterday that he hoped for a quick decision about sanctions.

In advance of the meeting, the US and Swiss governments issued a joint statement, reiterating their opposition to sanctions. Earlier this week, the American Jewish Committee released a poll indicating that 53 percent of American Jews would support a boycott or sanctions against Switzerland.



New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi, (left), talks with Israel Singer, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress yesterday, at the start of a meeting in New York about how to settle Holocaust claims with the Swiss banks. (Reuters)

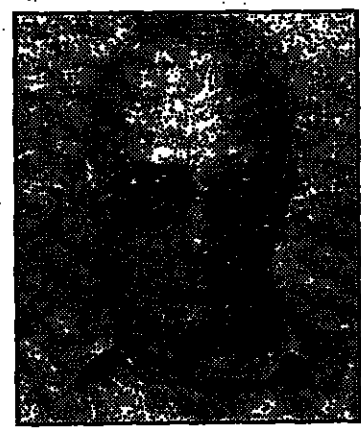
TAU professor wins Stockholm Water Prize

By JUDY SEGAL

Tel Aviv University Prof. Gideon Dagan has been named the recipient of the world's most prestigious prize for research in water-quality protection - the Stockholm Water Prize, which bears a \$150,000 award. Dagan, a member of TAU's engineering faculty who was selected from among 30 nominees, will be presented with the prize by Sweden's King Carl Gustaf at a ceremony in Stockholm City Hall on August 13, as part of the Stockholm Water Symposium and Water Festival.

Dagan will receive the award, granted annually since 1991 to a person or organization that has contributed significantly toward solving the world's water environment problems, for "his pioneering research on the relationship [among] pollutants, subsurface formations and transport processes, and groundwater," the Stockholm International Water Institute announced yesterday.

"This research leads to applica-



Prof. Gideon Dagan (NewsPhoto on the Internet)

tion of effective strategies for protecting and restoring groundwater, a major source of drinking water for many of the world's inhabitants and of irrigation for many of its farmers," the institute said.

Dagan, who has been on TAU's faculty since 1976, has had 10 visiting professorships at prestigious universities in the US and Europe.

National fraud squad investigates IBA head

The national fraud squad has been investigating outgoing Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum for the past two weeks on suspicion of accepting bribes in connection with television productions.

A police spokesman confirmed the investigation and said it was the result of a tip-off. The story was first reported yesterday morning by Army Radio.

The investigation reportedly has uncovered evidence that during 1993, Kirschenbaum's first year in office, he gave preference to a television production company he had owned before his appointment over its competitors, to produce local shows in exchange for bribes from a producer and an agent.

Kirschenbaum said in response that although "there are those who are interested in giving me a going-away present" (his term is up next month), "he is not concerned." He said he would answer any question, if summoned by investigators.

He added that in all his years at the IBA he had "never sinned by a single penny" and remains accountable for all his public activities. He reserved the right to issue a "livelier response" once his accuser becomes known.

Producer Shai Neshet was questioned at length by police this week. (Him)

El Al buyer suspected of taking bribes

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Shmuel Shimoni, 54, El Al's head buyer, who is suspected of receiving bribes from N.H.M., a Bnei Brak company which supplies gifts to workers committees and large companies, was released on NIS 60,000 bail by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday. He was also barred from leaving the country for six months.

According to police, N.H.M. won many El Al tenders over the last few years.

N.H.M. manager Yitzhak Etzioni, who was arrested at the start of the week, said in his statements to police that he gave Shimoni all kinds of perks and, in exchange, El Al purchased merchandise from companies he controlled. Etzioni is also suspected of bribing head buyers of other large companies.

Police investigators searched El Al's buyers department Wednesday morning and confiscated documents connected to N.H.M. They also search-

Shimoni's home where they found money which the police suspect may be "bribe money."

Police suspect Shimoni leaked confidential information on El Al's tenders to Etzioni. He is also suspected of preferring N.H.M. over other companies that competed in tenders to sell electrical appliances to El Al stores. The stores sell products to El Al workers at discount prices.

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NEWS

in brief

International flights to Eilat now Akaba bound

All Israeli international flights to Eilat are to land at the Akaba airport by the end of the year, Transport Ministry director-general Nahum Langenthal said yesterday. Between 30 and 40 such flights, by El Al and Arkia, land are now landing every week at the Uvda airfield during the tourist season. Langenthal presented two alternatives for a temporary Israeli terminal at the Akaba airfield, which is to become a joint Jordanian-Israeli airport. According to one plan, the terminal would be located at Ein Evrona, near the airfield, necessitating the paving of a four-kilometer road in Jordan, while the other plan would have a terminal at the present Arava border crossing.

Haim Shapiro

Man charged with Galilee double murder

Charles Anwar Farah, 21, of Kafar Yasif in the Western Galilee, was indicted in Haifa District Court yesterday for the murders of Nisan Agassi of Haifa and Abdel Rahman Abu Abeid of the Jenin area. According to the charge sheet, on the night of February 11, Farah, a soldier, shot the two - several times each - with his IDF-issued M-16 at separate forested locations in the Carmel. The reason for the killings remains unknown. (Him)

A-G recommends new trial for 'Ma'atz Gang'

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein this week recommended a retrial of the six members "Ma'atz Gang" sentenced some 20 years ago for setting fire to the Ha'aratz's office in Tel Aviv and several commercial enterprises in the Dan region.

His legal opinion, which was presented to the Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, came in response to a request from four gang members for a retrial, the Justice Ministry said in a statement yesterday evening. "The opinion analyzes the legal situation following the new evidence of former police officer Shai Simhi," it said.

There was no choice but to agree that there are grounds for a retrial in which this evidence will be examined together with the evidence brought before the court 20 years ago, Rubinstein said, adding that he had not taken a positive stand with regard to the veracity of the new evidence. (Batsheva Tsor)

Katsav meets with Posavliuk in Moscow

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav met yesterday in Moscow with Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posavliuk and expressed Israel's concern that Russia is helping Iran obtain weapons of mass destruction. Katsav was in Moscow for an international tourism fair at which Israel has a booth. (Him)

Man sentenced in death of brother

Amir Haim, of Petah Tikva, was sentenced to a year in prison and a year suspended for causing the death by negligence of his 15-year-old brother by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. Haim's brother, Erez, was killed last year when a gun belonging to Amir accidentally went off. The accused, who worked as a security guard, left his gun unattended in his room. The sentence was reached in a plea bargain.

The court agreed to delaying carrying out the sentence for two months to give the defense the opportunity to appeal to President Ezer Weizman for amnesty. (Galit Lipkis Beck)



27 Adar 5758
March 25, 1998

To: Mr. Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, wish to advise you that, if the Government decides to make a further withdrawal from areas of Eretz Yisrael, we will not continue as members of the Coalition, nor support it, and will act to bring down the Government.

We wish to point out that the Palestinian Authority has not yet implemented even one of the undertakings it accepted under the Oslo Agreements, and the Government itself has stated that unless there is reciprocity, Israel will not make any further withdrawal.

Mr. Prime Minister - Do not force us to proclaim "no confidence" in you and the Government.

Stand steadfast on the integrity and security of Eretz Yisrael. It is from a position of strength that we will achieve peace!

The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace!

Benny Elon

Z.B. Begin

Rehavam Ze'evi

Zvi Hendel

David Re'em

Hanan Porat

Moshe Peled

Michael Kleiner

Nissan Slomiansky

Haim Dayan

Members of Knesset

It takes a tour

The bandwagon of Big White Chief Bill rumbles across Africa on a geopolitical safari, 800 strong. It is preceded by a hurricane of minor panics ("paint dat road, carry dem chairs") and accompanied by a blur of cameras and furry microphones on the ends of broomsticks. It trails a wake of abandoned hamburgers, newspaper analyses, empty Coke cans, and the sounds of eternal Africa closing in again as if nothing had happened.

On the Internet news sites, most of the trip is already filed under "archives." There it will gather electronic dust until the next US presidential visit to Africa, when editors start yelling "pull me some background on that Clinton trip back whenever..." Young editorial assistants will look at one another blankly and say "Clinton?" It is not cynicism to say that for sub-Saharan Africa, most of us will see little change in our lifetimes – even in such clichés as "African solutions for African problems" and foreign statesmen flying in to extol the joys of free markets, democracy, and human rights, before flying north to find a decent hotel in Europe (or south, in Cape Town.)

Is that a Merc?

African problems – where to start? There has been that half century of coups, rebellions, massacres, refugee flows, famines, and the emergence of states that consist only of a decrepit capital city and little else except epidemics, bad drains, no roads, Dickensian health services, and lots of Mercedes going nowhere. African solutions have been billions upon billions of crisis dollars sent in by guilty northerners. It was spent partly on band-aiding the crises and partly on buying more Mercedes for "senior government officials" in places where there are no governments. The Organization of African Unity is an "African solution." Say no more.

Clinton announced a "Great Lakes Initiative of Justice" in Rwanda – it sounds like one of those old Soviet initiatives to build new missile silos for peace. The United States was so traumatized by its disaster in Somalia, it was paralyzed over Rwanda. This initiative makes up for the glitch in foreign policy, another band aid of \$30 million to be used for the dubious venture of "strengthening the rule of law in Rwanda." Another \$2 million go to a "genocide survivors fund." Sadly, if these funds had gone to international intervention in the bloody summer of '94, there might be more survivors to benefit.

Nice hotels

And so, yesterday, the bandwagon rolled into Cape Town – the only real purpose of the whole "pan-Africa" thing. It may have been 20 years since the last presidential visit to

Africa, but even this one would not be taking place without Nelson Mandela and the new South Africa.

In South Africa, the African mask can be removed. This is the only state on the tour when

Americans – especially Americans – can relax and feel on familiar ground. That is why Clinton is spending four days there, not four hours.

There is no 20th century Africa but South Africa. There is no hope for the future of Africa but South Africa. South Africa is to Africa what the United States is to South America. The Americas' superpower meets Africa's superpower. The new South Africa has its problems, but compared to the rest of Africa, they are the problems of a sophisticated nation in transition. Like the United States, the country has one of history's most carefully crafted constitutions. It is economically and politically stable, and potentially as exciting as any tigerish Asian nation. In fact, in international concerns, South Africa properly belongs in the ex-colonial democratic group of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and India, rather than with the rapidly regressing failed democracies on its borders.

Clinton's officials have plenty to learn from, and little to dictate, to Nelson Mandela. This is also a country with a robust and developing foreign policy of its own. It simply will not be preached to for dealing with Iran or because its president visits Tripoli.

Takes a village

The Washington Post said this week: "Mandela is the only African leader who can call Washington's bluff." So can his anointed successor, Thabo Mbeki, who bluntly said of Washington's new "trade-not-aid" policy: "It is wrong! Africa needs both." To be fair to the US president personally, his immediate unscheduled visit to Cape Town's Philippi township yesterday was an inspiration – the vintage unspoiled Clinton touch that is genuine and that makes him so admired. The Clintons never seem to lose sight of the fact that geo-political situations are actually inhabited by people. In Philippi, daily lives are not official statements. They are soap operas – like everywhere, if not as glitzy or trendy as Hollywood. They are lives of scrabbling for a living, of chatting over the clothes line, of various states of undress, changing hair colors, sports, ennui, passion, romance, intimate conversations, and delicious gossip.

Hillary was there last year and a Philippi housing project has since expanded tenfold with the help of American funding.

Hillary is right in saying it takes a village to build a nation – but first you have to build the village. That makes Mbeki right, too: trade is no use to a village with nothing to trade.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer



Andrew Golden, one of the two boys held in the shooting massacre, is pictured holding a pistol in an undated home video shown on ABC television.

Arkansas massacre prompts Congress action on juvenile crime

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

WASHINGTON (The Baltimore Sun) – The carnage wrought by two children Tuesday outside a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas, has suddenly given momentum to a tough juvenile-crime bill that would encourage states to try more children as adults, allow teenagers to be imprisoned with older criminals, and impose stiffer penalties on juvenile offenders.

The Republican-sponsored juvenile justice measure has languished for nearly a year, as critics from the Left attacked it as cruel while conservatives criticized provisions designed to keep guns away from school as being too burdensome for gun owners.

But senators from both parties predicted Wednesday that the deadly ambush by two boys, ages 11 and 13, will prod Republicans and Democrats to work out their differences and pass a bipartisan juvenile crime bill this year.

"I intend to do all that I can to make that happen," said Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota, who had not previously made juvenile crime legislation a priority. "The tragedy, the horrific tragedy yesterday, is another illustration of the need to do an array of things, including passing a good juvenile crime bill."

"If we don't pass a juvenile crime bill, the country's going to see more and more of these things," said Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who co-wrote the pending juvenile justice measure. "These kids have to see there are consequences for their actions." The attack took the lives of four girls and a teacher, leaving the nation aghast at two children in camouflage who authorities said set off a fire alarm, then fired a hail of bullets at their schoolmates.

Both parties have touted the need for new juvenile crime legislation since Congress narrowly

passed an adult crime bill in 1994. Despite the recent drop in juvenile crime rates, recent high-profile crimes by minors had convinced Republicans and Democrats alike that action was needed.

The Arkansas shooting is the latest in a series of recent schoolyard assaults. On December 1, a boy opened fire on a student prayer circle at a high school in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three students and wounding five. Two months earlier, two students were gunned down in Pearl, Mississippi, allegedly by a 16-year-old.

Advocates of new federal legislation say stringent new juvenile statutes would put youths on notice that they should and would pay for their crimes.

"The fact is, if a juvenile commits an adult crime, he should serve adult time," said Sen. Wayne Allard (R-Colorado).

The Senate bill sets age 14 as the point at which a juvenile could be tried as an adult.

Toughening the bill still further might be impossible. Though unanimous in their professed desires for new juvenile crime legislation, members of Congress have so far been unable to agree on specific matters that pit conservatives against liberals.

House Republicans passed their juvenile crime bill in May, with the Senate Judiciary Committee following suit in July with a similar measure. But Democrats have vowed not to pass the legislation unless it is substantially rewritten to include their priorities.

While violent crimes are generally a matter of state, not federal law, the legislation in Congress would dangle new money as an incentive to enact stricter penalties.

The Republican legislation would authorize \$500 million a year for states to spend on law enforcement and crime prevention. But to receive the money, the states would have to try their worst

juvenile offenders as adults, place the fingerprints of youth offenders into a national law enforcement data base, and stiffen penalties against gangs and other juvenile criminal activities.

Democrats have complained that insufficient attention is paid to crime prevention steps, such as after-school programs, and that gun control is given short shrift.

But the biggest sticking point is a provision allowing youth offenders to be jailed with adults, though not in the same cell. Republicans insist that the bill contains language ensuring that juveniles would be kept out of harm's way.

But Democrats and liberal advocacy groups insist that states would have "enough leeway" to allow children to mingle with adults in a prison exercise yard or cafeteria if not in their cells. That would lead to more prison rapes, assaults and suicides, said Kim Wade, assistant general counsel for the Children's Defense Fund.

Cancer patient is first to utilize Oregon suicide law

By KIM MURPHY

SEATTLE – An elderly woman whose breast cancer left her house-bound and unable to breathe easily swallowed a fatal dose of barbiturates and died in her sleep, becoming the first known person to utilize Oregon's landmark doctor-assisted suicide law, advocates announced Wednesday.

"I am looking forward to it, being that I was always active, and I cannot see myself living a few more days like this," the woman, a grandmother and avid gardener in her 80s, said in a scratchy tape recording made two days before her death Tuesday night. "I will be relieved of all the stress I have," she said.

The death of the woman, whose name was not released by her family, ended five months of uncertainty over application of the US's first law legalizing doctor-assisted suicide.

Oregon voters decisively rejected an attempt to repeal the law in November, but the measure has been tied up since then in disputes between doctors and pharmacists and a warning by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration that doctors could face sanctions for prescribing lethal drugs to their dying patients.

"I think one of the remarkable things about this story is that it's taken five months to have a confirmed death under the Death with Dignity Act," said Barbara Coombs Lee, head of the Compassion in Dying Federation, which was one of the law's primary proponents. "That certainly is counter to the predictions that this was going to be flagrantly used and abused, and there would be many deaths under the act."

State health officials have said they will not release any information about patients who elect to

utilize the law until at least 10 patients have done so – and even then individual cases will be kept confidential.

State epidemiologist Dr. David Fleming said he was not aware of the details of the current case, but confirmed that there had not been the requisite 10 suicides to trigger an initial state report.

"My sense is that there have been several ambiguous or confusing issues around the law, and both patients and providers have been waiting for some of those issues to become clearer out," Fleming said in an interview.

"This is without precedent, and I think there is some question about what the demand for this service actually is," he said.

Opponents of the law condemned its initial application. "I am deeply saddened at this news. The suicide of this elderly woman can only bring anguish to those who have resisted the public

policy initiatives that changed the law in Oregon," John Viazny, archbishop of Portland for the Roman Catholic Church, said in a statement.

Oregon Right to Life said it expects to revive a lawsuit still pending in federal court challenging the law, initially adopted by voters in 1994.

"My reaction is one of profound sadness. This marks a historic day, a day where society for the first time, to my knowledge, is sitting by watching and condoning someone kill herself with the legal help of her doctor," said Gayle Atteberry, spokeswoman for the group.

She said the unidentified woman's assertion that her suicide would relieve her "stress" was an indication that she suffered from depression, not unrelieved pain. The law requires doctors to refer patients suffering from depression for counseling

before going ahead with a suicide. Lee, who held a press conference in Portland announcing the suicide, said the woman had battled breast cancer for 20 years.

In recent months, she found herself unable to enjoy favorite pastimes like gardening and was having trouble breathing when she decided to end her life. She had been told by her doctor that she likely had two months to live.

Surrounded by family members and a physician who agreed to prescribe the drugs, she died 30 minutes after taking a lethal dose of barbiturates, washed down with a glass of brandy.

"I've always been able to get around and do things. Suddenly, I'm in a position I can't walk very good and I'm having trouble breathing," the woman said in her audio recording. "I can't see myself living a few more months like this."

Trust rules out official Diana doll

LONDON (AP) – There may be official Princess Diana games and puzzles and even a doll one day, but the princess's memorial trust on Wednesday ruled out a Diana doll like their popular teen-age doll Sindy.

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which has been criticized for allowing her signature logo to appear on a tub of margarine, said Wednesday it was approached by American toy firm Hasbro Inc. about games, puzzles, and other toys, including a doll.

But the fund issued a statement saying, "The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has not granted a license for a Diana Sindy Doll."

The spokesman made it clear that a Diana doll of some other kind was not ruled out. This would be allowed if it meets the requirements of the trustees and is judged acceptable to the public.

And he said discussions with Hasbro are continuing about other products.

An argument for approving an official Diana doll is that many unapproved dolls are being made, and a way to counter that is allowing the right doll to be put on the market, he said.

"It is the duty of the trustees to ensure that the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund raises as much money as possible for the causes that the princess held dear," a statement from the charity said.

"Any proposals being considered will be judged by the trustees with a proper regard for the public's feelings and sentiments about the princess of Wales."

Hasbro said it is negotiating with the fund about a series of products. However, he said that the discussions had never included what it termed a "Sindy Diana doll."

US envoy warns Milosevic

By KATARINA KRATOVAC

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) – Thousands of angry Kosovo Serbs turned out yesterday to mourn a policeman killed in a gun battle with ethnic Albanians in the troubled province and accused Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic of planning to sell them out to stay in power.

Also yesterday, US envoy Robert Gelbard told Milosevic aides that time was running out to reach a peaceful settlement with the increasingly restive ethnic Albanians, who outnumber Serbs in the province 9-to-1.

Failure to reach a deal, Gelbard said, could mean new foreign sanctions and possibly another Balkan war.

"Time is not on the side of this government," he said after meeting top Milosevic aides in Belgrade. "We regret very much that they still appear unprepared to take meaningful steps."

Among the steps yet to be taken, he said later, was the withdrawal from Kosovo of special Serb police

units, which he said were "absolutely terrorizing the population." In contrast, Gelbard praised ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova for putting together a 15-man team to prepare talks, and met with most of them in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Gelbard was accompanied by a senior British diplomat, Jeremy Greenstock, representing the European Union, who stressed the "great urgency" of finding a peaceful solution and improving human rights in Kosovo.

Milosevic has ruled with a heavy police presence since stripping Kosovo of its autonomy in 1989, saying he had to protect its minority Serbs in a region that was the cradle of Serbian culture and Orthodox church.

The Albanians now insist on independence, which neither Serbia nor foreign powers will accept. Rugova, speaking after the meeting with Gelbard, hinted the Albanians might also drop a demand for outright foreign mediation in negotiations with Serbs. He thanked the United States and Britain for their efforts to ensure "international presence and

mediation" at the talks.

Milosevic in recent weeks has indicated that he will try to reach a settlement. But his offer of talks and restoration of Kosovo's autonomy have been dismissed by Albanians and foreigners as insincere.

Kosovo's Serbs nevertheless fear a sellout, and vented their anger at yesterday's funeral for policeman Miodrag Otovic, a 36-year-old father of two, in his home village of Brestovik, near Pec in northwestern Kosovo.

Otovic's widow, Olivera, was near collapse as she mourned over the open coffin of her husband at their home. Neighbors and relatives who had come in the Serbian tradition to drink rakija, the local plum brandy, raged at Milosevic.

"Why isn't he here?" demanded one angry villager. "Why doesn't his son come to fight?" asked another, referring to Milosevic's son Marko, 23, who owns a discotheque and a pizzeria and has a well-publicized penchant for racing cars and motorcycles but has not served in the military, a requirement for Serbian men.

We regret to announce the death of

RAPH A. LUNZER

The funeral took place in London on March 26, 1998.
Shiva at 16 Ahad Ha'am St., Jerusalem (until Wednesday morning)

Mourners –

Jerusalem:
Michael Lunzer-Luzann and family
Sarah Ann Ophir and family
Joseph Lunzer and family
Haifa:
Victor Lunzer and family
London:
Sons, Peter and Aran Lunzer
Daughter, Jane Gifford and family

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing in California of

RUTH FINER MINTZ

The funeral will take place Saturday evening, March 28, 1998, at 10 p.m., at Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. The procession will leave from Beit HaHesped (opposite Herzog Hospital).

Aviva Shavit and Family
Rena Schleimer and Family
Shalom Mintz and Family

We deeply mourn the passing of our beloved

Dr. HENRY H. KAUFMANN

Tucson, Arizona

His wife: Roslyn Kaufmann
His children: Susan, Wendy and John
His sisters: Hilde Reiter, Scarsdale, N.Y.
Anneliese Goldberg, Jerusalem
Lottie Frazer, London
His nieces, nephews, grandchildren and family in Israel and abroad

Unpredictable Yeltsin basks in limelight

By TIMOTHY HERSTAGE

BOR, Russia (Reuters) — Boris Yeltsin, as unpredictable as ever, gave a cameo performance yesterday that at first bemused and then won over the visiting German and French leaders.

Back on the international stage after his latest illness, the Russian president suddenly stood up at a news conference and produced gifts for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac.

"It is not much, but I have a souvenir to give my friends," Yeltsin announced with a grin, producing a tray with three shallow gold and silver cups held in place by a rod which acts as a lock. The tray and cups, made in his home region in the Ural mountains, were meant to symbolize the alliance between the three leaders, meeting as a "troika" for the first time at the Bor residential complex outside Moscow.

Balancing the tray on his left hand, Yeltsin fumbled to unlock the rod.

"I'll manage," Yeltsin protested, but had to be helped by his press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky.

Delighted to open the lock, Yeltsin handed one of the cups to Chirac and one to Kohl.

"I give one to Jacques Chirac," he said delib-

erately.

Turning to Kohl, he said: "I give one to Helmut Kohl — my friend." Chirac, who had looked intrigued by his first sight of the gift, laughed. Kohl, who had looked puzzled, rose to his feet with a smile.

Yeltsin held up the globe-topped key and said: "It's a small atlas." "Oh look, he's keeping the key," Chirac quipped.

Kohl tested: "Don't fall back into the bad habits of Russian imperialism, Boris. You are a reformer. The key belongs to all of us." Yeltsin laughed. He will keep the key until the next "troika" meeting next year in France.

The 67-year-old president was relishing being back in the international spotlight after a respiratory infection which recently kept him out of his Kremlin office for a week.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Chirac said the three-party forum would reconvene France next year. "We decided that the next meeting will take place in France, probably in May next year," Chirac told a joint news conference with Yeltsin and Kohl.

"This is a solid troika," a beaming Yeltsin told reporters as he clenched hands with Kohl and Chirac during a photo session.

He was expected to give the two leaders a detailed rundown of his reasons for seeking a

new government team.

"This is a big event," Yeltsin told reporters after the three sat at a table. "We will talk about the fundamental situation in our country, security in Europe, and our troika, Paris-Bonn-Moscow. In general, questions are very serious — they concern political, economic, social problems."

Anxious to be the perfect host, Yeltsin served tea to Kohl and Chirac before talks began and seemed relaxed and confident throughout the meeting.

But he walked stiffly and sometimes appeared to move slowly.

He also seemed confused when he unexpectedly invited reporters attending the start of talks to ask questions.

One reporter asked a question and Yastrzhembsky, sitting beside the president, quickly whispered in his ear — apparently to remind him the news conference was not scheduled until later.

As Yeltsin came to the end of his answer, Yastrzhembsky held up his arms above the table and crossed them to signify the impromptu news conference was over.

Yeltsin has a history of abandoning protocol and surprising foreign dignitaries and even reporters.



South African President Nelson Mandela greets US President Bill Clinton at his Cape Town office. Clinton is the first sitting American president to visit South Africa. (Reuters)

Clinton: US wants 'strong South Africa'

CAPE TOWN — President Bill Clinton yesterday pledged that the US would help South Africa overcome problems left by the legacy of apartheid.

"Simply put, America wants a strong South Africa, America needs a strong South Africa, and we are determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa," Clinton said in a speech to a joint session of the South African parliament.

Clinton, making history with the first visit to South Africa by a US president, noted the unprecedented nature of his appearance before South Africa's first democratically elected parliament.

"I am deeply honored to be the first American president ever to visit South Africa and even more honored to stand before this parliament to address a South Africa truly free and democratic at last," he said.

Clinton, interrupted several times by applause, said the US wants a genuine partnership based on "mutual respect and mutual rewards. We rejoice at what you have already accomplished. We

seek to be your partners and your true friends in the work that lies ahead, overcoming the lingering legacy of apartheid, seizing the promise of your rich land and your gifted people."

Clinton Bill opened his visit to South Africa with bricks and mortar by unexpectedly joining his wife at the dusty Victoria Mxenge housing project near a shantytown. They quickly went to work laying brick alongside the women in charge of construction, which put 104 houses where last year there were just 18.

"I went into politics so I wouldn't have to work this hard," the president joked as he and Hillary Rodham Clinton worked.

He lauded the project as "a model for people who don't have a lot of money all over Africa, all over the world."

If his first hours here were low-key, Clinton seemed to want it that way. When his plane landed at D.F. Malan International Airport,

there was only a quiet exchange of greetings with Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo before Clinton retired to his hotel. Aides said his mind was still very much on his brief visit to Rwanda on Wednesday, and the remorse he expressed over the 1994 genocide there.

"He's very much looking forward to South Africa, but he has not processed that information, for reasons that are pretty obvious," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said. "He cannot get the stories he heard in Rwanda out of his head."

Clinton is to spend four days in South Africa, the only state visit of his 12-day tour of Africa. He will spend today with President Nelson Mandela — in meetings and touring the former island prison where Mandela was held for 18 years — before traveling to Johannesburg to dedicate a commercial center named for the late commerce secretary Ron Brown, an advocate for trade with Africa. (News agencies)

Kiriyenko chairs first cabinet meeting

By ANNA DOLOV

MOSCOW (AP) — Acting Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko chaired his first cabinet meeting yesterday, but refused to discuss the possible composition of a new government, news reports said.

Kiriyenko is preparing his "conceptual view" of government policy and will present it to President Boris Yeltsin, the acting premier was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

Yeltsin appointed Kiriyenko to the post Monday, after abruptly firing the entire cabinet. The president has two weeks to nominate a new prime minister, and Russian officials have said that Kiriyenko

has the inside track, though others may also be in the running.

Yeltsin, occupied yesterday at a summit with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, did not appear at the cabinet meeting. However, Yeltsin is expected to attend a government session today, Kiriyenko said.

The cabinet meeting was spent mostly on routine questions, such as consumer rights and a report on the Health Ministry's performance, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Kiriyenko cut short any attempts to talk about the composition of a new cabinet, Interfax said.

Meanwhile, Kiriyenko's predecessor, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was to meet with his pro-government Our Home Is Russia faction at parliament to prepare their proposals for new cabinet members.

Chernomyrdin has said that he expected to participate in the formation of the new government, but it wasn't clear to what extent Yeltsin would heed his recommendations.

Chernomyrdin lost his job with the rest of the cabinet on Monday, and Yeltsin told his long-serving and loyal prime minister to devote himself to "preparations" for the 2000 presidential election. However, it is not clear if that means Chernomyrdin will be a

candidate, and he has declined to tip his hand.

Yeltsin has said his new premier will pursue free-market reforms. Yet anyone who meets this criterion is likely to face a difficult fight for confirmation in the hostile parliament, with is dominated by the Communists and their allies.

"If Mr. Yeltsin simply forms a new team to continue the old course, we will never support it," Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov warned Wednesday.

Still, the Communists in parliament may not want a showdown with Yeltsin. The constitution allows Yeltsin to disband parliament if it rejects his candidate three times.

Historian: Public was long aware of tobacco risk

By HENRY WEINSTEIN

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Using a strategy that has proved successful in the past, the tobacco industry Wednesday launched its defense against Minnesota's massive lawsuit by calling a well-regarded historian who told a jury here that there had been widespread concern and considerable publicity about the health hazards of smoking for many years.

As the lead defense witness, University of Minnesota Prof. Hyman Berman cited numerous newspaper articles, television documentaries, school curricula, anti-smoking legislation, and material from popular culture as among the ways that state residents and public officials learned that cigarettes could endanger them.

As one example, Berman cited a 1940s Tex Williams song, whose lyrics include "Smoke, smoke, smoke that cigarette. Puff, puff, puff — and if you smoke yourself to death... Nicotine slaves are all the same." He also cited anti-smoking statements from a range of prominent individuals, from Christopher Columbus and president John Quincy Adams to former surgeon general C. Everett Koop.

Decades ago, Berman testified, Minnesota residents were referring to cigarettes as "coffin nails," "cancer sticks," and "little white slavers." And he said that the state even banned the sale of cigarettes for four years, starting in 1909, before repealing the law and instituting formal regulations governing the product's sale in 1913.

What did not come out in court Wednesday is that the industry maintained a far different public position during those years. Despite the adverse publicity Berman alluded to, tobacco officials maintained that there was no clear proof that smoking adversely affected health.

But Gregory G. Little, Philip Morris' associate general counsel, said the industry was using Berman to lead off because it wanted to hammer home the point that the public was well aware of the health debate over tobacco.

"Awareness goes to the very heart of the state's case and our defense," Little said in an interview at the courthouse. The plaintiffs are "trying to hide the fact that it's absurd for the state of Minnesota to say it was misled about the risks of smoking," Little said.

The state contends that the cigarette companies deceived the public and government officials about the hazards of smoking and covered up what they knew about the link between smoking and disease and the addictive nature of nicotine.

Minnesota and its co-plaintiff Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota are seeking \$1.77 billion in damages for money expended treating sick smokers. The state is seeking additional damages for alleged violations of its antitrust and consumer fraud laws. The case is the first of numerous state lawsuits against the industry to go to trial.

Berman's direct testimony was expected to conclude yesterday. After the cross-examination, the defense plans to call 39 other witnesses, including industry executives, scientists, and marketing personnel.

It also plans to call hostile witnesses, including Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III, who filed the massive case in August 1994 and has emerged as one of the industry's major adversaries.

The trial, now in its ninth week, comes against the backdrop of continuing congressional consideration of a proposed \$368.5 billion

national tobacco settlement, which Humphrey has repeatedly blasted as a bailout for the industry. It is anticipated that the defense will take a month or two to present its case.

Little said industry attorneys hope to convince jurors of three basic points: that the cigarette companies did nothing wrong; that the state was aware of the hazards of smoking and failed to take stronger action against the industry in order to continue to collect millions in tax revenue from cigarette sales every year; and that nothing the industry did can be linked to any losses suffered by the state or Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota.

(Los Angeles Times)

Lewinsky's mother fails to avoid testimony

By DAVID WILLMAN and TOM SCHULTZ

WASHINGTON — The mother of former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, who appeared emotionally distraught after her last appearance before a federal grand jury, failed Wednesday in her attempt to be excused from further questioning.

Marcia Lewis had sought to persuade a federal judge to stop prosecutors from again summoning her before the grand jury that is investigating the nature of her daughter's relationship with President Bill Clinton.

"Unfortunately, nothing changed today," Lewis' lawyer, Billy Martin, said after the hearing, which was closed to the public. "She remains a witness before the grand jury."

Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's prosecutors are trying to determine if Lewis knows about the handling of gifts that her daughter and Clinton exchanged and whether Lewinsky may have confided other details of the relationship to her. Lewinsky began an internship at the White House in the spring of 1995 and last year obtained a paying job there.

According to a relative of Lewis, her lawyer and prosecutors are negotiating whether she might be allowed to testify in a deposition

away from the courthouse, instead of reappearing before the grand jury. Lewis will be required to testify, possibly as soon as next week.

William Ginsburg, Lewinsky's lawyer, criticized Starr for seeking to press Lewis further.

"It demonstrates a callous disregard, not only for the rights of Ms. Lewis as a mother, but also for the American public, which has voiced its disapproval of this," Ginsburg said in an interview.

Starr, since mid-January, has been investigating whether Clinton lied under oath about his relationship with Lewinsky or encouraged others to testify falsely. Clinton testified that he engaged in no form of sexual activity with Lewinsky.

Also on Wednesday, lawyers familiar with the matter said Starr has subpoenaed documents related to four women suspected of having past relationships with Clinton. The subpoena was delivered to lawyers for Paula Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who is suing Clinton for sexual harassment.

In an effort to open to the public investigation-related court proceedings, news organizations have appealed a judge's ruling that has kept all the hearings closed. Chief US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson has not allowed the public or press to attend hear-

ings about the White House assertion of executive privilege or alleged leaks by prosecutors of secret grand jury evidence.

The US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia agreed Wednesday to hear arguments on April 8 on whether to overrule Johnson, according to Theodore J. Boutrous, a lawyer who is representing The Los Angeles Times and 11 other news organizations.

In another development, a former presidential aide who has knowledge of the circumstances of Lewinsky's April 1996 job transfer from the White House to the Pentagon was questioned for three hours before the grand jury.

Jodie R. Torkelson, who until last August headed the White House management and administration office, was asked about her understanding of why Lewinsky was sent packing, according to people familiar with her appearance.

After testifying Wednesday, Torkelson had no comment. Her lawyer, Stephen Braga, acknowledged that Torkelson was questioned about a computer message she distributed in April 1996 seeking notification if Lewinsky applied for another job within the White House. Existence of Torkelson's query was reported this month by Newsweek magazine. (Los Angeles Times)

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Addicted to pressure

Opposition leader Ehud Barak, in an attempt to outflank Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from the Right, has been attacking him for being forced to accept American "dictats." Netanyahu likes to pretend that he is pressure-proof; yet he has become not only a magnet for pressure but addicted to it. Netanyahu seems to think he can use pressure like the judo master uses the momentum of an opponent's attacks against him. So far this technique has succeeded in lowering expectations – which is no small trick – but Barak is right that it is a dangerous strategy to continue as each stage becomes more critical.

Yesterday, Netanyahu told Israel Radio that he has no problem with the United States publicly presenting its ideas, as long as they are the right ideas. This may actually be an understatement – Netanyahu wants a US endorsement of his final inching forward toward the all-but public US plan. Though the cabinet has never officially locked on a number, the proposed Israeli redeployment reportedly stands at 9.5 percent, the US bridging proposal at 13.1 percent, and the Palestinian "minimum" at 15 percent. Each percentage point, as Netanyahu points out, represents an area the size of Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu has reportedly put forward a proposal that is slightly more generous in quantity – i.e. a "double-digit" percentage – and significantly more generous in quality. The Palestinians. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has argued, care at least about the contiguity of the area they control as its size. Overall percentages say nothing about whether, after a withdrawal, the Palestinians will continue to control myriad disconnected pockets or a few continuous blocks. Once cities are connected under Palestinian control – Jenin and Nablus, for a start – more of the roadblocks which are a blight on Palestinian daily life can be removed.

In addition to quality and quantity, there still remains the issue of reciprocity. Until now, despite much talk to the contrary by the Netanyahu government, Israel has demanded only the barest Palestinian compliance with Oslo's requirements. In the Hebron Agreement, Netanyahu succeeded in raising the issue of Palestinian compliance to a much higher level, and in December the cabinet passed a daunting list of measures to be linked to any further withdrawal. Yet once again an expectation has built up that Israel must withdraw no matter what, while Palestinian compliance can once again be postponed for another day.

In order to end the cycle of real withdrawal in

exchange for broken promises, Israel is proposing a phased withdrawal linked to the Palestinian fulfillment of specific Oslo commitments. The US appears to endorse the principle of phasing the withdrawal, but is resisting the setting of numerous benchmarks for Palestinian compliance.

Israel, understandably, does not want to endorse by omission any Palestinian violation, such as the overblown security forces, the half-way amended Palestinian Covenant, or the failure to bring terrorists to justice. On the other hand, a demand of total, immediate compliance is naturally perceived as – and may become – a recipe for total shutdown. What is necessary is something between the exhaustive demands passed by the cabinet and the insufficient toughness of the American approach.

At this point, what will make or break the next stage of the process is not the game of percentages, but the matters of quality, reciprocity, and the looming next step: the third redeployment. According to then-secretary of state Warren Christopher's letter to Netanyahu that accompanied the Hebron Agreement, the third and last pre-final status redeployment must occur by "mid-1998." Faced with a cabinet that is united in its unwillingness to withdraw from more territory before final-status talks even begin, Netanyahu seems to be trying to invoke Yitzhak Rabin's famous principle, "dates are not sacred." Netanyahu wants the third redeployment to be rolled into the final status talks, while the Palestinians want their last down payment promised to them, not only by Oslo, but by the US letter to Netanyahu.

But the peace process is not a Swiss watch; not only does it not run on time, but there is little that is precise about it. A fudging formula needs to be found so that the third redeployment is, if not subsumed by, then embedded in, the final-status talks. In exchange, the cabinet's list of compliance demands from the Palestinians must be prioritized, and couched in measurable terms that are clearly fair benchmarks rather than impossible hurdles.

Netanyahu is not the first Israeli leader who has tried to engineer a US proposal – "pressure" in effect – to provide cover for a domestically difficult final push. Rabin and Peres at times also employed this tactic, which can sometimes work well for everyone, including the Palestinians. But coercive US proposals, such as the ill-fated Rodgers and Reagan plans, end up being counterproductive. To avoid this, both Israel and the United States must be somewhat flexible and creative, so that together they can convince the Palestinians to be realistic.



It's time for America to act

ABBA EBAN

No harm whatsoever would be caused to Israel by the publication of American proposals on how to move the peace process forward. Such a move is long overdue.

The American mediators have shown great deference to all the complex and inhibitions that have gripped Israeli and Palestinian policies. The current US attitude seems to be obsessed by the notion that the appearance of a US formulation would indicate that Israel is being "pressured" to draft a proposal midway between American severities and Israeli complacency.

The idea of "pressure" is wildly overdone. Israel has a decisive influence on American policy, while America has a very meager influence on Israel's diplomatic strategy.

There is no doubt that an American proposal would have a beneficial effect in Israel. It would introduce a new factor into the Middle Eastern equation. The underlying principle of a US mediation is that a benevolent third party can sometimes formulate ideas which neither of the major disputants could initiate itself – or accept from its adversaries. This is precisely the kind

of service which Dennis Ross and his colleagues seem to have withheld from the parties until now.

The notion that a direct Israeli or Palestinian formulation would magically secure the enthusiastic backing of an Israeli or Palestinian

clashes of arms, and president Jimmy Carter, a year later, introduced Egypt and Israel into the brave new world of peace treaties.

All in all, the United States has played a better and wiser hand than have Benjamin Netanyahu or Yasser Arafat.

The US has played a better and wiser hand than have Benjamin Netanyahu or Yasser Arafat

draftsman is too ludicrous for any serious mind to sustain. That is why mediation has played a distinguished role in refining Israeli and Palestinian policies.

The four armistice accords signed by Israel and its contiguous neighbors in 1949 created sufficient stability to enable Israel to create a basis for the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and for Israel to implement crucial tasks of consolidation – and to assert its manifest permanence in the Middle East. Henry Kissinger in 1974 saved the Yom Kippur War from degenerating into renewed

WHEN a peace treaty prolongs its duration, the signatories forget their previous predominance and the losing side renounces its subservience. Negotiators would do well to focus on the new situations created by assiduous American mediation since the peace prospect became vivid four years ago. Israel and the Arab states will now have to adapt themselves to a new balance of forces.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright rebelled imaginatively against passivity when she made her proposals for a "time-out" in settlement expansion, a clear

definition of the second deployment, and the urgent re-animation of the peace process. Israeli leaders should not have rejected these innocuous and lenient proposals. They left all Israeli rights intact.

Netanyahu showed disdain for peace when he allowed his government to stonewall these ideas. He also acted with less than courtesy by sending Albright on wild missions to Paris, Geneva, Bonn, and Madrid, while portraying himself as standing on the verge of decisions – which he never intended to make.

It may turn out that Netanyahu does not fully understand America, despite his prolonged immersion in its traditions and values. But there may be only a short time left before the Middle East pressure-cooker explodes. Once American mediation is exhausted, very little chance for peace will remain and the bright vision that illuminated the White House lawn in September 1993 will leave nothing but intense nostalgia behind.

US mediation is now the only surviving recourse.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

No contrition, lots of chutzpah

MOSHE ARENS

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook paid his first official visit to Israel 50 years after the British mandatory administration left Palestine in disgrace, its continued presence having been made intolerable by the underground fighters of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group and by the UN partition resolution that Britain refused to support.

The small Jewish community, already besieged by the regular armies of the neighboring Arab countries, was left to its own devices, and the British-officered and equipped Jordanian Arab Legion was preparing to take a leading role in the invasion of the newborn Jewish state.

This was the sad ending of 30 years of British rule in Palestine, a rule that began with the Balfour Declaration, committing Britain to the support of the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, followed by the League of Nations Mandate entrusting Britain with that task. It was to be 30 years of betrayal of trust – from beginning to end.

The blackest chapter encompassed the years of Hitler's rise to power and the years when the Jews of Europe were desperately seeking a refuge from the Holocaust. The war was followed by a continued ban on the immigration of the remnants of European Jewry and draconian

measures applied to the Jewish community in Palestine in a vain attempt to suppress the Jewish revolt against British occupation.

Cook chose to begin his visit to Israel by going to Har Homa, the building site in southern Jerusalem, to demonstrate his opposition to the Israel govern-

ONLY ignorance of the history of British misrule in Palestine can explain Cook's chutzpah during his visit. Full awareness of that history should have brought a contrite British foreign secretary here and suggested an entirely different itinerary for his visit. He might have started his visit

The British Mandate was 30 years of betrayal of trust – from beginning to end

ment's construction plans in its capital city. He decided to lecture his Israeli escort, insisting that Jerusalem is also the capital of the Palestinian state-to-be. Just to rub in his message, he insisted on shaking hands with Palestinian demonstrators who had, not accidentally it seems, appeared to welcome him there.

His outrageous behavior might have been tempered somewhat had he known that the site is adjacent to Ramat Rahel, the kibbutz where 50 years earlier a desperate battle was fought by the Jewish defenders of Jerusalem, who halted there the advance of an invading Egyptian army column that had succeeded in reaching its outskirts.

by going to Acre prison and paying his respects to the Jewish freedom fighters hanged there by British executioners. His next stop should have been the Jewish quarter of Hebron, where the Jewish community was massacred by its Arab neighbors in 1929, while the British police refused to interfere.

Next should have been Haifa harbor, from which the Royal Navy enforced its blockade of Jewish immigrant ships, and Atil where those immigrants that had succeeded in landing were temporarily interned before being expelled.

He might have concluded his tour by visiting some of the battlefields where the British-led and equipped Arab Legion fought the

fledgling Israeli army in 1948. After such a visit he probably would have found that his conversation with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could have been quite productive and of benefit to both sides.

It took 50 years before some of the countries of Western Europe began reexamining the role their governments and people played during the years when six million Jews were being murdered by the Germans and their accomplices.

The Swiss have admitted to turning back Jewish refugees at their border, their banks to stealing the accounts of Jewish depositors, their government to assisting in the German war effort. Their government has expressed remorse for these acts.

The French have put on trial Vichy officials responsible for sending French Jews to the death camps, while President Jacques Chirac has publicly admitted the guilt of the French nation. This soul-searching has not even bypassed the Vatican, which in its recent Holocaust document has at least partially admitted to the complicity of Catholics in the Holocaust.

It is evidently taking more than 50 years before similar soul-searching begins in Britain.

The writer is a former foreign and defense minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCHOLARLY COPYRIGHT

Sir – Concerning Abraham Rabinovich's balanced article "The case of the 2,000-year-old copyright," (March 20) on the lawsuit of Prof. Elisha Qimron against magazine editor Hershel Shanks, who published Qimron's edition of a Dead Sea text without his permission and without even acknowledging his role in reconstructing the text from five fragmentary manuscripts: The issues are not only academic; they are fundamental to social and personal ethics.

The publication of Prof. Qimron's work without his permission, which is not in dispute, is not only theft of intellectual property but a violation of the code of decency. How would

you feel if something that took you 11 years to write were published without your knowledge and without even giving you credit?

What is particularly distressing is that, according to your report, Shanks' Jerusalem attorneys foster an entirely naive, false and demeaning view of what scholars do. Scholars do not merely assemble and disseminate ready-made facts. They use their knowledge, experience and yes, imagination to establish the very facts themselves as well as to construct theories that might effectively and convincingly explain them.

Real scholarship is a highly creative act: scholars think up ideas

that others have failed to imagine.

Qimron's persuasive reconstruction of a meaningful text from fragments of ancient parchment is a creative work of the highest order, resulting from years of painstaking research, wide-ranging textual and linguistic studies, and the testing of various hypotheses. If works of fiction and non-fiction, most of which are highly derivative, are open to copyright, how can a unique and original work of scholarly imagination be anything but?

ED GREENSTEIN
Professor of Bible,
Tel Aviv University.

Tel Aviv.

MY REMARKS

Sir – In your article, "PM: No amending Golan Heights Law" (March 24), which reported on the debate in the Knesset Law Committee over the Golan Heights Law of MK Eliezer Zandberg, my remarks to the committee were seriously distorted.

You wrote: "The bill is a sign of lack of public responsibility on the part of the Knesset," said Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'Aliya). "It

puts off even those of us who are opposed to withdrawal."

I did not say that the bill was a sign of lack of responsibility but rather the timing of its discussion by the committee, a decision of the committee's new chairman, MK Hanan Port.

I further explained that new developments in the Southern Lebanon problem, nervousness in Syria over a possible unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops as

well as signs of a possible thaw in relations between Iran and the US should please those who are opposed to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

For the first time, I said, there exists a possibility of breaking the linkage between security on our northern borders and the Golan Heights issue.

PROF. Z. WEINBERG, MK,
Jerusalem.

US VOTERS

Sir – We wish to remind all US voters that this fall, 34 seats in the US Senate and all 435 House seats are up for election. To vote this fall, Americans residing abroad must first re-register and request an absentee ballot from their local Board of Election. To do so, FPCA cards (Federal Post Card Applications) are available now until the end of September.

These FPCA cards can be gotten at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, at the US Consulate in Jerusalem or Haifa and at the 5 regional AACI offices

during normal business hours. When picking up these cards, a consular official will provide you with your local Election Board's address to whom these cards must be mailed to, at least 30 days before the November election.

FPCA cards are also available by mail from any Consular office upon request, or from the US Voting Coordinator.

Send an 8x11 inch self addressed and stamped envelope to: US Voting Coordinator, P.O.B. 1258, Rehovot, 76112. By return mail with

your FPCA card, you will receive the address of your local Election Board provided you will have furnished your last voting address in the US.

Filled out FPCA cards will be mailed free of charge by any US Consulate, or you may mail it directly with the proper Israeli postage.

For further information, you may call 08-945-7671 Sun-Thurs. 10 am - 5 p.m.

DAVID FROELICH,
US Voting Coordinator,
Rehovot

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 27, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that a mass meeting of Arab notables in Jaffa, held under the chairmanship of Jamal Al-Husseini and which included a number of members of the Arab High

Executive, had decided on the principle of future non-cooperation with the Mandatory Government of Palestine.

25 years ago: On March 27, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported

ed that the Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, had announced that he had assumed the premiership of Egypt which would be henceforth entering an era of "total confrontation with Israel."

Alexander Zvielli

Security is the key

GERALD M. STEINBERG

If, or when, the US government finally announces its long-awaited proposal for breaking the deadlock in the Oslo process, there is only one criteria that counts – security. If the proposal provides tangible security, the Netanyahu government should grab it with both hands, but if the proposal does not meet Israel's security requirements, America's peace team needs to be sent back to the drawing board.

Other factors, including Israeli coalition politics and ideological objectives, or the Clinton administration's efforts to please or appease the Arab states, are irrelevant.

Far too much attention has been focused on the question of the extent of the redeployment, while the security package has been neglected. A brief and ambiguous statement of principles, negotiated a few months ago, was insufficient to meet Israel's minimum requirements.

Security is a very complex issue, with both immediate and long-term dimensions. The immediate focus of the negotiations with the Palestinians is the fundamental need to end terrorism. In the longer term, any "interim withdrawal" must be measured in terms of its potential impact on strategic opportunities for increasing stability, as

SHORT-TERM security, however, is not the only criteria for assessing this or any other proposal. The terms of the interim withdrawal, along with other moves, such as the opening of an airport in Gaza and the construction of the land corridor between Gaza and Ramallah, will have broad and long-term impacts. In the next year, the Palestinians are likely to declare independence, unless the Israeli government agrees to a Palestinian state in final-status talks, in which case the results will be essentially the same.

If Israel agrees to an additional major withdrawal before this declaration, giving the Palestinians control over at least 60% of the territory, this state will be viable. In contrast, if Israel still maintains military control over 50%, the Palestinians will have a mini-state with much more limited capabilities.

The fundamental question here is how these two scenarios will affect Israeli and regional security. If provisions such as verifiable demilitarization can be built into the process, then the potential dangers of a Palestinian state can be minimized. Under such circumstances, and with a sustainable economy, a Palestinian state could be a source of stability and security.

With verifiable demilitarization and a sustainable economy, a Palestinian state could be a source of stability and security

well as regional threats, including Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

With respect to the immediate terrorist threat, the suicide bombings and drive-by shootings since September 1993 show that the peace process was unsuccessful in the first round.

Binjamin Netanyahu was elected to change this situation, and in response, the new government linked further withdrawals to full Palestinian compliance. In the renegotiation of the Hebron Agreement in 1997, he tried to drive the point home. The process is a two-way street, and if Israelis are burying victims of terror, there is no sense in its continuation.

In terms of short-term security, if an Israeli withdrawal from 13.1% or 15% of the territory included in the Oslo framework will finally stop terrorism, it will be worthwhile. By the same token in the absence of such a change, even 1% is too much.

To proceed, Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must eradicate the terrorist infrastructure completely, and unequivocally condemn all acts of violence against Israelis.

The demand for a formal and public amendment of the Palestinian Covenant is to ensure that this time the message is not subject to different interpretations.

In September 1993, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the Oslo Agreement in the hope that it would lead to an end to terrorism. Now, such wishful thinking is insufficient. The process toward historic compromise can only go forward if the Palestinians destroy the terrorist infrastructure and make a radical change of direction.

Like most parents, I spend much of my time worrying about my children's education. Ever the university-trained immigrant, I still worry about whether I am providing them with the skills to earn a living.

But more than I worry about their secular education, I worry about their Torah education. I wonder whether their home and schools are adequately exposing them to the full richness of Jewish thought, so that they will be able to deal with the deepest questions of faith with more than formulaic answers.

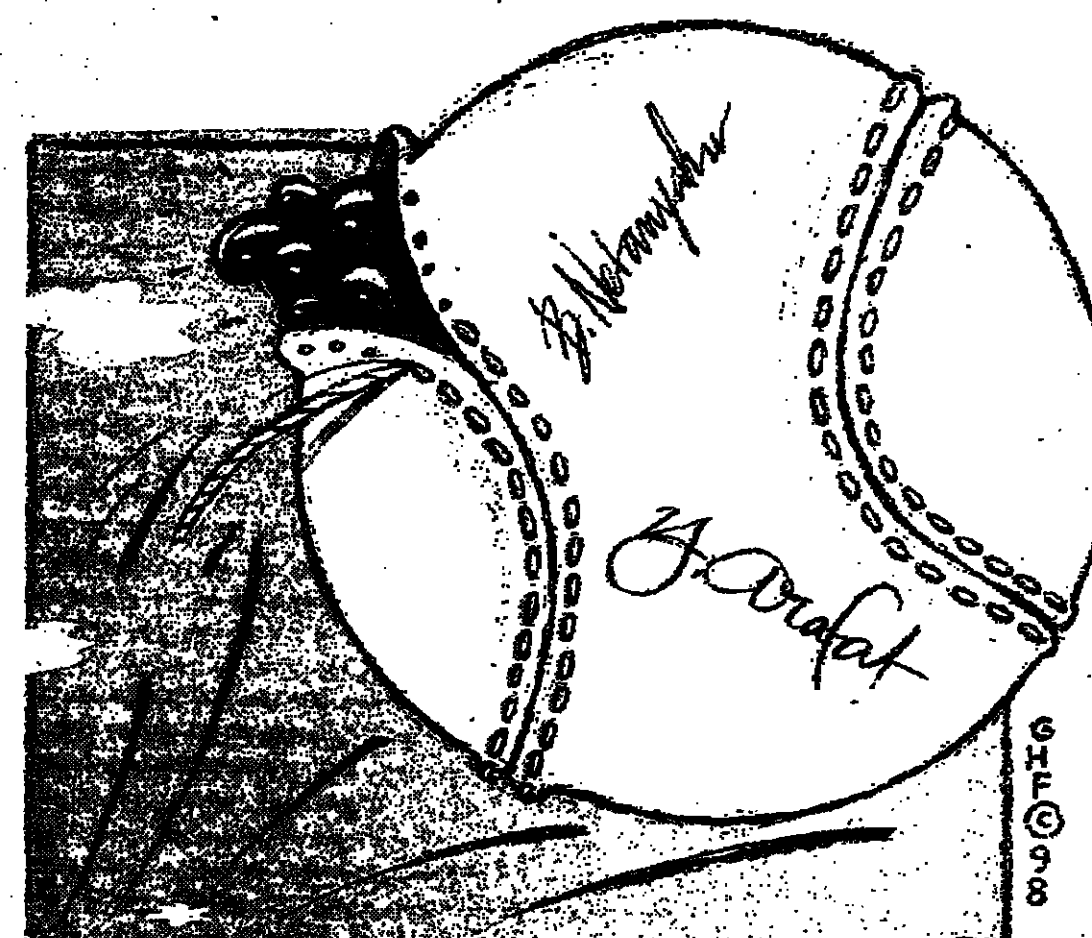
But most of all, I worry about whether they are imbued with a deep sense of Klal Yisrael and love of their fellow Jew. Or are they prone to smug self-satisfaction? Are my wife and I and their teachers too aware of the failures of the secular world – violence, drug use, promiscuity, the anomie of youth – and insufficiently concerned with our own failures to live up to the Torah's demanding ideals?

It would be easy, and wrong, for religious parents to convince themselves that they are sufficiently instilling their children with a sense of Klal Yisrael. Every index of identification with other Jews – concern for Israel, giving to Jewish causes, voting according to Jewish self-interest (however defined) – grows markedly with increased religiosity.

The reason is obvious. The closer one feels to Sinai, where all Jews stood together, and the more one experiences being Jewish as the greatest privilege, the greater one's concern with every other Jew.

Religious Jews can point to the plethora of institutions they have created for the entire population – Laniado Hospital, Yad Sarah, Ezer M'Tzion, Ezra L'Marpeh – as evidence of our concern with fellow Jews. The energy and commitment of volunteers for Lev L'Achim and Arahim surely testify to their deep sense of the preciousness of every Jewish soul, whatever one's view of efforts to return Jews to their faith.

Religious children are raised on a



Impression of motion

MARK A. HELLER

I don't know if Dennis Ross is a baseball fan, but he has clearly been inspired by the great American philosopher, Yogi Berra. Berra had an illustrious career as a catcher for the New York Yankees, but he is better known as the fount of pithy sayings on life masquerading as baseball (or is it the other way around?). One of his aphorisms refers to the art of predicting the end: "It ain't over," said Berra, "till it's over."

More than anyone else, Ross has the responsibility for maintaining the life-support systems that make it possible for everyone else to claim that the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is not dead. This is clearly in everyone's interest, because if a formal death certificate were ever issued, the leadership on all sides would be in the very embarrassing situation of having to explain what they intended to do next.

So ever since Israel and the Palestinians stopped talking to each other, Ross has been there, either to put together a deal (as in Hebron), or else to convey the impression of motion, if not movement, in order to delay the moment of truth: an Israeli-Palestinian confrontation, an Israeli-American confrontation, or an admission by all that it's over.

In the best of circumstances, it is not easy to mediate between belligerents with widely divergent positions. It is even harder to mediate when the parties have no positions. But this is the absurd situation in which Ross now finds himself. Despite each side's effort to compile long lists of infractions by the other side, the focus keeps coming back to territory, specifically, the extent of the further redeployments (FRDs) that Israel is obliged by the Interim Agreement to carry out.

In keeping with the time-honored principle of constructive ambiguity, the Interim Agreement never specified the precise territory to be covered in these redeployments, only that they be carried out according to an agreed timetable (as modified by the Hebron "Note for the Record"). Nor did it stipulate how the extent of redeployment was to be determined. The Israeli government insists that this should be a unilateral Israeli decision and that the US government has endorsed this view in a letter by

then-secretary of state Warren Christopher to Prime Minister Netanyahu at the time of the signing of the Hebron Protocol. In fact, all the letter says is that Christopher advised Yasser Arafat of US views on the process of redeployment, without indicating what those views are.

In any case, this approach is clearly not acceptable to the Palestinians, and it is therefore not acceptable to

the Americans; if it were, they would not keep trying to elicit a more "generous" Israeli offer. The problem for Dennis Ross, however, is not just bridging the gap between the parties; it is understanding what their positions are.

THE Palestinians' approach proceeds from their interpretation of where they should be after the last redeployment – in control of about 90% of the West Bank, developed from the simple arithmetic exercise of dividing 90 by three. But beyond that statement of principle, they have no declared policy except to reject whatever is suggested (as was the case with the first redeployment in March 1997, and with an idea proposed earlier this year that Arafat dismissed as "peanuts") and to hope/expect that the Americans will extract more.

As for the Israeli government, it has said a variety of things: that it wouldn't carry out the second FRD unless the Palestinians first meet all their security commitments, that it would if it could ensure Israel's essential security interests, that it might not unless everybody agreed to skip the third FRD, and that it might, in phases, if the Palestinians did everything required from them.

But even if it would, or might, the FRD it could contemplate would be a single-digit redeployment, because those coalition members whose opposition to any redeployment is not unconditional can't cross the psychological barrier of two digits. And even if it did, or might, the character of the redeployment would be driven by Israel's permanent status needs.

The first obstacle is not that difficult to overcome with a little fancy footwork by Ross. 13% of Area C is equal to 9% of the West Bank, and the same product can be packaged at least two different ways. But it will be a lot harder to finesse the second one, because the Israeli government itself has no idea on what its permanent status needs are.

True, it did spend almost a whole year on map exercises that produced a whole range of plans: Netanyahu's "Allon-plus," Yitzhak Mordechai's "national interests" and "security interests" maps, and the third (or fourth) variant of the "Sharon Plan." But while there was enough overlap in these plans to allow the government to agree that Israel should eventually keep between 50% and 65% of the West Bank, there was not enough overlap in the coalition to allow agreement on any FRD map.

Netanyahu has a little more leeway now because the Knesset has gone into recess, but it's still easier for him to talk about a map than to draw one. And this means that Ambassador Ross still has to suggest, with no guarantee that his suggestion will work.

Of course, for this particular mission, he doesn't have to worry about being lonely. The parties themselves may be somewhat reticent, but there are lots of other commentators and would-be mediators who are eager to help. In fact, there are so many others with ideas to contribute that if Ross doesn't succeed this time, he is likely to respond, the next time he is asked to come to the region to activate the life-support systems, with another of Yogi Berra's insights: "That place is so crowded, nobody goes there anymore."

The writer is a senior research associate at the Jaffar Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Amotz Asa-El
Middle Israel

The Brooklyn dodger

Being the post-chauvinists they are, Middle Israelis find little wrong with Jews residing outside their ancestral land. To us, David Ben-Gurion's promise in the early 1950s, to lead American Jewry's young generation to the Promised Land with or without their parents' approval, seems dated in terms of our needs, desires, and norms.

First, since Ben-Gurion's pronouncement we have more than quintupled demographically, militarily, and economically; we no longer thirst for every single Jew's presence in our midst.

Secondly, having witnessed – and often experienced – the unequivocal acceptance of Jews by a host of gentle societies, we have ceased to believe that old Herzlian tenet about Diaspora Jewishness axiomatically generating antisemitism.

And finally, living in an age of vanishing political borders and a rapidly coalescing transnational global culture, we are no longer sure that man was necessarily created "in the shape of his motherland's landscape," as poet Shaul Tchernichowski wrote, nor that humans were intended to dwell among, or be otherwise committed to, their fellow tribesmen.

In other words, in the spirit of the American and French revolutions' ideals, we place one's vol-

dishing from the depth of Brooklyn's brownstones a Greater Israel theology?

This writer is on record as having been no fan of Yitzhak Rabin's, mainly due to his besmirching language, spiritual shallowness, and spendthrift economics; but I do know of, and deeply admire, his role in restoring this land to the Jews, as a 26-year-old colonel who led 1,000 poorly equipped farmer-soldiers in a succession of uphill skirmishes which ultimately secured the burgeoning Jewish state's access to Jerusalem.

Nearly half of those predominantly teenaged troops lost their lives in the pitched battles which raged from Nebi Samwil and the Kastel to Katamon and Bab el-Wad. Surely those gruesome formative experience in trenches across the hills of Judea had something to do with Rabin's famous gruffness.

Hecht, at the time, was also entrenched – in his Brooklyn pulpit.

While reconstructing his detailed CV proved difficult, this paper did establish that prior to his attack on Rabin, Hecht had served his synagogues for 50 years; in other words, including the 1948 war. Having been born only months apart from Rabin, Hecht could also have been here fighting

Offshore patriots like Rabbi Hecht are in no position to tell us how much blood, sweat and tears to shed on the land they purport to covet even more than those who conquered it

untarilly assumed citizenship above one's involuntarily inherited descent.

And yet none of this makes patriotism passe; yes, nationality can be chosen rather than bequeathed, but once adopted, it comes along with clearly defined rights and obligations. Beyond that, it also means that those who demand from others a certain measure of national loyalty, must first meet those standards themselves.

THERE would have been no need in going through all this had the sad tale of Brooklyn Rabbi Abraham Hecht not returned to the headlines this week.

Typical of our political discourse, the debate surrounding Hecht's request that the ban on his entry into Israel be lifted missed the point. While focusing on whether or not he had actually called for Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, it neglected to explore this non-Israeli's schizophrenic desire to scold the citizens of another country for ostensibly being insufficiently patriotic.

In an interview with Channel 1's Ya'acov Ahimeir, conducted shortly before Rabin's assassination and aired for the first time this week, a chuckling Hecht quoted a line from Maimonides, which says that Jews who relinquish parts of the Holy Land to gentiles deserve to die. Never mind that a host of rabbinical giants, from Ovadia Yosef to J.B. Soloveitchik, had ignored such out-of-context passages and sanctioned land-for-peace deals; how do Hecht and his ilk not feel the anomaly of bran-

for the Promised Land's Jewish future. For whatever reasons, he chose to stay somewhere within the Crown Heights-Flatbush-Borough Park nexus. In navigating himself into that Bermuda Triangle, he lost both the moral right and the intellectual ability to question Rabin's, or any other Israeli's, patriotism.

Had he periscope into the vistas which lurk beyond the narrow confines of a pile of medieval rabbinical texts in a trans-Atlantic study, Hecht might have pondered the meaning of his having not lost a fraction of the family, friends, and soldiers whom Rabin had bereaved here. And had he fathomed the cumulative impact of some 70 blood-drenched years on Middle Israel's perception of its origins and destinations, Hecht would have understood that he is in no position to publicly voice his brand of ultra-chauvinism.

To be taken seriously, those offshore, holier-than-thou, armchair patriots of Hecht's school would do well to refrain from dodging the draft they so ardently prescribe for those of us who actually reside here.

Whether Middle Israel's willingness to partition this land stems from strength or weakness, wisdom or gullibility, generosity or callousness may remain to be seen. But those of us who choose to dwell abroad cannot tell us just how much blood, sweat, and tears to shed on this tormented land, which they purport to covet even more than the erstwhile, battle-chiseled generals who conquered it in the first place.

Teach your children

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Religious Jews can point to the plethora of institutions they have created for the entire population – Laniado Hospital, Yad Sarah, Ezer M'Tzion, Ezra L'Marpeh – as evidence of our concern with fellow Jews. The energy and commitment of volunteers for Lev L'Achim and Arahim surely testify to their deep sense of the preciousness of every Jewish soul, whatever one's view of efforts to return Jews to their faith.

Religious children are raised on a

the burial of hundreds of Jewish bodies strewn about the camp. One day, after he had recovered, he was informed of a group of Jewish girls who had set up a red-light district for American soldiers.

He did not turn his back on them, for he knew how well the Nazis had succeeded in robbing their victims of any trace of human dignity. Instead he went to speak to them, reminding them of the tears their mothers had shed as they fit the

social conditions. Never before have Jews had so little sense of themselves as members of one community. The most religiously observant are unlikely to have social contact with non-religious Jews. And, according to the Guttman Report, the most secularized are even less likely to know personally any religious Jews.

Increasingly, it takes a great soul – something always in too short supply – to see the Jewish spark shining

It would be easy, and wrong, for religious parents to convince themselves that they are sufficiently instilling their children with a sense of Klal Yisrael

steady diet of biographies of Torah leaders who lived exclusively for the Klal, with virtually no concern with self. That of the late Klausenberger rebbe is typical.

At Auschwitz, the rebbe watched his wife and 11 children taken to the gas chambers. Yet on the day of liberation, he wasted not a moment on his own private agony. ("I rejoice that when Jews suffered suffered so much," he said.) Immediately after liberation, the rebbe went from survivor to survivor with food and medicine. He told boys and girls who had lost their parents that he would be their father and mother, and so he was.

The rebbe nearly died from typhus contracted while directing

Shabbat candles that they should grow to be good Jews. Most of those girls returned with the rebbe to the educational institutions he had established in the DP camps.

Nearly two decades later, in fulfillment of a promise he made to God in the camps, the rebbe founded a hospital in Netanya devoted to showing the world a true Jewish attitude towards health care. (Every doctor, for example, must sign a contractual commitment not to strike.)

THE lessons of such biographies, however, are increasingly difficult for our children to absorb. In large part, that is attributable to our failures as parents to educate them sufficiently in the love of Israel.

But it is also a function of objec-

tion from those whose outward appearance gives no clue as to their Jewish identity and whose attitude toward their own religion is often one of contempt.

As for the collective suicide of American Jewry, one is tempted to turn from the scene as one would turn from the sight of a car about to crash into a wall at high speed.

Above all, it is difficult to teach love for those who call your very physical existence into question. Once only a Yitzel Turnarkin would dare to say in public, "When I see a haredi mother surrounded by her large brood of children, I understand Hitler."

Today similar sentiments are commonplace. We hear constantly how the haredi community, with its

countless children, is growing too fast. The implicit message to haredi children is: We wish you were never born. The only reason that Meretz has not proposed cutting off child allowances for large families is that such a move would have an adverse effect on the Arab population, whose rapid growth is vital to its political agenda.

Only haredi citizens have their very lives subject to a cost-benefit analysis. Newspapers do not tote up the costs of drug rehabilitation or of immigrant absorption or of prisons for this ethnic group or that – only funding for haredim.

Our children don't need to be deconstructionists to discern the media venom. If any haredi commits a crime, that fact is automatically newsworthy.

Even the shonest news item is packed with buzzwords: "unemployed" (aren't they all?), "former yeshiva students."

Perhaps it is a backhanded compliment that crimes committed by anyone who ever learned in a yeshiva are so rare as to be newsworthy. But when will the media start mentioning the level of religious observance of wife-killers or inform us whether 22 percent of teenage haredi boys also carry weapons to school and whether more than half have been terrorized by their fellow students?

Teaching our children – all our children – the love of their fellow Jews is hard enough. Let's not make it harder for one another.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

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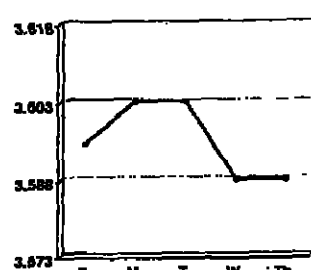
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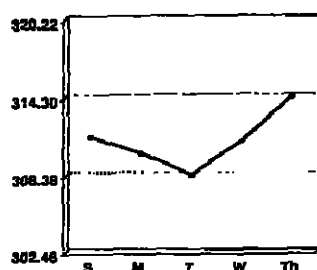
MARKETS

in brief

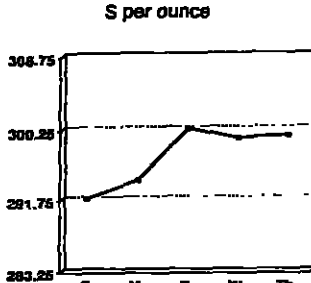
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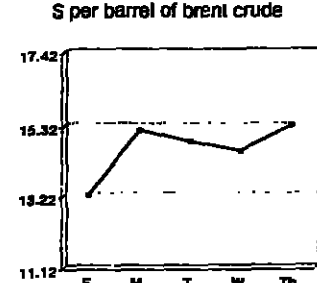
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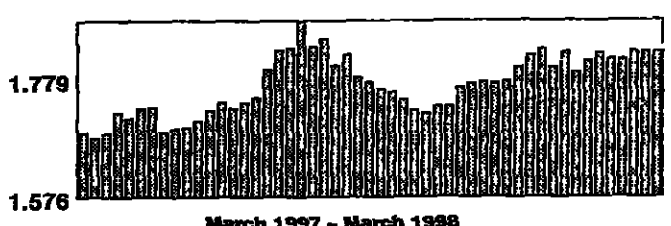
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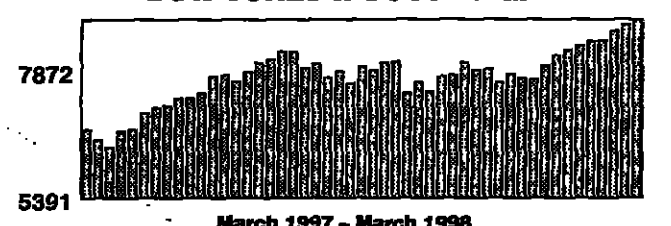
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BITS & BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

GaSonics to establish development center here

GaSonics International, which makes equipment for semiconductor manufacturing, announced this week that it will open an R&D and customer support facility in Rehovot as part of its strategic plan to expand global operations.

The San Jose, California-based company is expected to invest some \$10 million here over the next few years. The center will start with software development and is then to expand into hardware. The company also said it expected to start manufacturing here within two years.

Avner Shelem, GaSonics vice president and general manager for engineering and operations, said that "increasing demand for innovative process solutions was a major factor in the decision to boost our presence and establish a direct R&D effort in Israel."

First Access wins prestigious prize at CeBIT

First Access won the "Best of Show" security software prize at the annual CeBIT technology exhibition in Hannover, which concluded this week.

The Haifa-based start-up, established last year, won the prize for its contactless smart card solution, Enterprise Contactless Authentication, which allows computers to automatically authenticate a user from a distance of a few meters.

Thus, when the user leaves his desk for a break, entry to the computer is blocked.

RADGUARD, another Israeli company in the security software competition sponsored by Byte magazine, won second place for its second generation virtual private network solution, the cPro-VPN, which provides high performance encryption and authentication. RADGUARD, established in 1994 and a member of the RAD group, has its international headquarters in Tel Aviv and a US office in New Jersey.

Sensotech to make \$5m. private placement

Sensotech, a start-up established in 1995, is to make a \$5 million private placement in the US and Europe via the Dovrat-Shrem investment house.

The Petah Tikva-based company develops and markets systems for door safety automation in transportation based on sensor technology.

The company has signed strategic partnerships with four major companies - General Motors, the Canadian company Vapor, which manufactures bus and train doors in North America; the French Faiveley, the world's leading train door manufacturer; and the Israeli elevator company, Israelift.

SciDel raises \$4.84m.

SciDel, a digital video start-up, completed a private placement this week of \$4.84 million, which will be used to expand its US subsidiary and marketing in Europe, according to CEO Kobi Bendel.

The venture capital fund Gemini Israel invested \$2.52m. of the sum. The other owners of the company - Sciex, Clal Electronics, the Star Fund and Bendel - expanded their holdings in the company.

SciDel, established in 1995 as a spin-off of Sciex, has developed a computer program that allows the placement of "virtual advertisements" on selected parts of television screens.

At sporting broadcasts, for instance, one can have ads placed around the area that can only be seen by television viewers. This enables broadcasters to match advertisements with specific viewer audiences, such as those in different countries, and to change ads during games.

Jobnet gets 100,000 visitors

The job search Internet site Jobnet, run by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, has published a total of 1,500 job offers and has had some 100,000 visitors since it was established nine months ago.

The site, at <http://www.jobnet.co.il>, is designed to help new immigrants search for work in Israel. Ya'acov Richman, who manages the project, said that manpower agencies around the country work with Jobnet to update the job offers, very few of which are more than 30 days old. About 50 percent of the hits on the site are from Israel. Jobnet appears in English and Hebrew and has a dictionary of professional terms.

Clal's '97 net profit down 91%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Clal Israel yesterday reported that net profit tumbled 91 percent last year to NIS 10.7 million from NIS 119.4m. in 1996.

The company attributed the decline to falling profits from insurance activities and costs arising from a reorganization plan.

The sharp decline is seen as a major failure, as it follows a 45.2% decrease in profitability in 1996.

The nation's second largest conglomerate announced a net loss of NIS 76m. for the fourth quarter, compared with a net loss of NIS 1.4m. in the same period in 1996.

Clal said in a statement that "1997 was a

turnaround year for the company, in which the new management stabilized its activity and prepared it for growth and achievements in a changing environment in each of the main businesses of the company."

Clal said the main change was focusing on a number of well-defined areas in which the company has an advantage. In addition, the company started investing in new areas with high growth potential, such as information technology and water and environment infrastructure.

The company added that during the year it had taken a few reorganization steps. One of the major moves was the restructuring of Clal Trading before it was sold to business-

man Gad Ze'evi.

Clal said the sale of its trading subsidiary has generated NIS 70m. in profits, which will appear in the results for the first quarter of 1998.

The results were also hurt by the restructuring of Clal Industries and Investments, which included the sale of several holdings. Clal Industries reported last week that net profit fell in 1997 to NIS 41.2m. from NIS 84.2m. in 1996.

The subsidiary said that losses of Barak ITC, a supplier of overseas telephone services, and the slowing economy have hurt its earnings.

Clal said that despite the sharp decline in

profits, restructuring plans have put the company in a position which will allow rising profitability and growth in 1998.

The company also said that its insurance group, Clal Insurance Enterprises Holding, witnessed a decline in profitability.

Despite the losses and a decrease in the number of housing starts and falling sales of new apartments, the real estate arm of the company maintained its profitability last year.

Another division which remained profitable was Clal Tourism, which presented improved results despite the fact that the entire industry suffers from an ongoing weakness.

Strauss declared dairy monopoly

By NINA GILBERT

Antitrust Authority director David Tadmor announced yesterday that he has declared Strauss Dairies - a monopoly in dairy products, and the company has agreed to accept monopoly limitations in the ice-cream sector.

As a result, Strauss must cancel its exclusivity agreements with retailers.

Tadmor said that in two weeks he would issue orders imposing various limitations on Strauss and Elite, which it took control of a year ago.

Tadmor can do this following a recent change in the Antitrust Law, which allows Tadmor to issue orders to monopolies without having to go through the Antitrust Court.

Under the orders, Strauss and Elite will be forbidden to link the sale of their products, to engage in exclusivity agreements or similar arrangements, or to dictate the price at which products are sold to consumers.

Strauss will also be forbidden to sell its products below cost or to use its refrigerators to block competitors.

Moreover, the two companies will be required to run an internal supervision and enforcement program to ensure that employees do not violate the orders.

Strauss has also agreed for these terms to apply to its ice-cream products, since Noga ice cream, owned by Thuvia and Osem, has agreed to cancel its exclusivity agreements. Both ice cream producers have agreed to cancel the agreements by May 15.

Tadmor said this would result in boosting competition in the ice-cream sector.

Next week, Tadmor is due to declare Coca-Cola, produced here by the Central Bottling Company, a monopoly in the cola market under an agreement worked out among the soft drink producers.



Sentenced for fraud

Former Sumitomo Corp. copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka (left), accompanied by lawyers, arrives at Tokyo District Court yesterday. Hamanaka was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to forgery and fraud in racking up \$2.6 billion in trading losses.

(Reuters)

Price Waterhouse to start operating in PA

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Price Waterhouse will start operating in the Palestinian Authority, the firm's local representative - Sa'adi, Farrage and Orfaly - announced yesterday.

Wael Sa'adi, a partner in Sa'adi, Farrage and Orfaly, said the international accounting firm is the last of the Big Six to start operating in the PA.

"The big accounting firms are interested in doing business here, as they realize it is becoming an important place," Sa'adi said. "They believe that as the peace process continues there will be more opportunities."

He added that Price Waterhouse is also work-

ing for the World Bank and US AID, which sponsor large projects in the PA areas.

Sa'adi, Farrage and Orfaly will continue to represent the accounting firm even after its planned merger with Coopers & Lybrand, which is set to create the world's largest accounting firm.

"Coopers, which already has a representative in the PA, will start working with us," Sa'adi said.

Sa'adi, Farrage and Orfaly is one of the largest accounting firms operating in the PA. The company has some 300 employees and has offices in Ramallah and Bethlehem, as well as in Jerusalem, Sa'adi said.

Price Waterhouse is represented in Israel by

Somekh-Chaikin, which is expected to merge with Kesselman & Kesselman - which currently represents Coopers & Lybrand. It was reported, however, that the merger of Israel's two largest accounting firms is facing difficulties.

Sa'adi said his company is cooperating with Somekh-Chaikin and expects to improve cooperation in the future.

Richard Gherst, a partner at Price Waterhouse, came here for the opening of the new office. Sa'adi said that Gherst met yesterday with senior Palestinian officials.

Price Waterhouse, which is currently the sixth largest global accounting firm, holds offices in 119 countries.

Kibbutz industries study method to change color of produce

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Carrots don't have to be orange if their genes are changed according to a process developed at Hebrew University.

The technique, developed by Prof. Yossi Hershberg, was presented yesterday to heads of the kibbutz industries with the aim of one of them implementing the development on a commercial basis.

Dozens of managers of kibbutz factories took part in the gathering.

In the process, the nutritional value of the products is not harmed, according to Oded Barish, head

of the Kibbutz Industries Association.

He said the technique is the result of several years of research, in which the genes that control color in agricultural products were isolated.

"This new technology will enable the creation of new fruit and vegetable types for which there is great demand internationally," he said. "This can give local producers a marketing advantage."

According to Barish, colors of fruits and vegetables, such as carrots and citrus fruits, can be strengthened or changed.

This technique will also enable the development of additional means of creating natural food colorings with high nutritional value, he said.

Intel's Grove resigns as CEO

By DAVID E. KALISH

NEW YORK (AP) - Andrew Grove, who has been at Intel Corp. since its creation 30 years ago, is resigning as chief executive and will be replaced by Craig Barrett, the computer chipmaker's No. 2 executive.

Intel, the world's largest maker of microprocessor chips, said yesterday that Grove, 61, will stay on as chairman to focus on broader strategic issues behind the computer industry's growth.

Intel said through spokesmen that the succession was part of an "orderly transition" and unrelated to Grove's health problems or to the company's recent stock financial performance.

Barrett replaced Grove as president last year - a step that led to widespread speculation that he would succeed Grove in the top job.

Intel's board voted at a regular meeting Wednesday to replace Grove after he approached company directors about stepping down, said spokesman Howard High.

Grove revealed in 1996 that he had prostate cancer, but recently said the disease is in remission and that he is in better health after

surgery two years ago. Grove, who became chief executive 11 years ago, recently presided over six straight quarters of flat revenue growth and a warning early this month that its computer chip sales were falling below expectations.

Still, Time magazine named Grove its 1997 "Man of the Year," calling him a great entrepreneur whose product "propels a new economy." Intel, with a market value of \$137 billion, has been key in the computer industry's emergence as a driving force in the US economy. Intel makes 90 percent of the world's microprocessors.

Grove, a Holocaust survivor, arrived in America a penniless refugee in 1956 and went to work for Intel in 1968. He was named president in 1979 and chief executive in 1987. In 1997, he also became Intel's chairman.

Barrett, 58, will replace Grove on May 20 after the company's annual meeting. He joined Intel in 1974 and was named a vice president in 1984. He became chief operating officer in 1993.

Barrett is well-known in the industry as crucial to the company's remarkable success in making

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



Which stocks do you follow?

Late each night, just before the Jerusalem Post goes to press, CommStock Trading updates the closing stock prices that you read here every morning. We give you the New York, London, Paris and Frankfurt stock markets, Israeli shares abroad, commodities prices in New York and London, metal prices and indices. We're proud that CommStock's satellite information services provide this up-to-date information to Jerusalem Post readers.

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LAST	CHAM
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KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZA
TASE ISSUES

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	LAST	CHANGES
Intel Corp.5	103.00	-1.8
Intel Lightening Bond 3	120.5	0
Intel Bond 3	102.7	-0.8
Intel Bond 3	130.4	-0.8
Intel Bond 3	249	0.4
Intel Bond 3	86.6	0
Intel Bond 3	0	0
Intel Bond 3	0	0
Intel Bond 3	0	0
Intel Bond 3	26869	0
Intel Bond A	247	-0.4
Intel Bond A	2439	0
Intel Bond A	108	0
Intel Bond A	105	-0.5
Intel Bond A	67.3	0
JEC Vermont 5	198	1.5
Jerome Mortgage Bond 16	30.2	0
Jerome	105	0
JOEL Bond 1A	102	-0.9
JOEL Bond 1	118.3	0
JOEL Bond A	225	0
JOEL Vermont 3	150	-0.5
Kodak	132	0
Kodak Bond 1	53	0
Kodak Vermont 1	78	0
Kodak	20.6	-0.6
Kodak Bond A	53.9	0
Kodak Vermont 2	719	0
Kodak Bond A	127	0
Kodak Vermont H	137	-0.4
Kodak Vermont G	1.3	0
Kodak Bond A	4.1	0
Kodak 1	125.3	0
Kodak 1	186	-1.4
Kodak 1	64	0
Kodak Bond A	120	0
Kodak Chromatix Bond 2	402	0
Kodak	329	0
Kodak Bond A	810	-0.1
Kodak Bond A	144.1	0
Kodak Bond A	30.6	0
Kodak	73.5	2.1
Kodak	1177	0
Kodak	178	0
Kodak	599	0
Kodak Vermont 1	6.7	0
Kodak	7559	0
Kodak	227	0
Kodak	148	0
Kodak Bond 1	476	0
La Nationalite Paul	89	0
Lampson	889	0
Lampson Oil Exploration	1.8	0
Lampson Oil Exploration	684	0
Lampson	488	0
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Lampson	121	0
Lampson	357	0
Lampson Oil Exploration	105	0
Lampson	416	0
Lampson	0	0
Lampson	91.3	0
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Lampson	849	0
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Lampson	113.9	0
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Lampson	82.7	0
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Matheson	82.75	-0.26
Inf Paper	48.875	-0.15
Johnson & J	72.4375	-0.26
K Mart	16.375	-0.125
Kmart Altam	10.25	-0.0625
Kellogg	43.25	-0.125
Kellogg Int'l	39.625	-0.1875
Kennametal	51.4375	-0.375
Kon-Samuel	71.1875	-0.3125
Kon-Samuel Int'l	27.625	-0.125
Korling-Clark	49.0625	-0.125
Kroy World Prod	29.3125	-0.125
Kroy World Prod	29	-0.125
Kroyer	44.5625	-0.5625
LSI Logic	22.75	-0.125
Ludgate & Platt	19.8125	-0.1875
Ludgate Int'l	20.8125	-0.25
Ludgate Int'l	50.875	-0.5625
Lyons	29.5	-0.5
Lyons Int'l	27.625	-0.375
Lyons Int'l	85.0625	-0.6875
Lyons	59.5	-0.375
Lyons Int'l	21	-0.1875
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Lynchburg Corp	115.5	

*In local currencies

Quiet diplomacy or noisy diktat?

Will a new, bolder American approach to the peace process follow Dennis Ross's visit to the region? Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington on an administration divided over whether to turn up the heat on Israel



Special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and his team are back in the region, and for the first time in many visits, progress in the peace process may be achieved.

That is the view of some observers here in the US, due in no small part to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's preemptive strike in which he offered President Bill Clinton his own proposal for breaking the deadlock in negotiations with the Palestinians. Had Netanyahu not done this, the administration was expected to publicly unveil its recommendations for advancing the talks.

Officials have been careful in defining these as yet-unreleased recommendations - calling them not a plan, not an initiative, but "ideas" on where things stand and how progress might be made.

Officials point out that these ideas would be a natural evolution from Clinton's meetings here in January with Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, at which the president offered for the first time his concept of what it would take to move ahead: a three-step IDF redeployment in tandem with increased PA security efforts.

Washington may still take the next step, depending on the outcome of Ross's mission. A senior US official did not discount it, saying, "Those are decisions that'll have to be made when Dennis returns."

The Washington Post reported yesterday, though, that Clinton has already decided that the administration will unveil his package soon after he returns next week from his Africa trip. The president "recognizes that if he doesn't get the support of the parties, we will have to explain where we came out," a US official was quoted as saying.

The official stated that Arafat is seriously considering the initiative "because they [the Palestinians] see Bibi making a big fuss about it and wonder if it's in their interest to say yes and watch us duke it out with the Israelis."

But Ross's visit may preclude that eventuality if the Americans find that Netanyahu's proposal - which reportedly trades off greater territorial continuity in a further redeployment for a lower percentage of land than either the Americans or Palestinians want - is a basis for a deal between Israel and the PA.

Ross made a first stab at ascertaining Netanyahu's intentions by traveling to Miami on Wednesday night to meet with visiting Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

While some suspense remains, an American pronouncement would be more notable for its actuality being said - on the record, by an identifiable official, possibly Secretary of State Madeleine Albright - than for its content. After all, it is an open secret for more than a month that Netanyahu wants to go no higher than a redeployment from 9 per cent of the West Bank, while the US prefers 13 per cent for this stage.

An American official maintained that the US's strategy is evolving but that this does not necessarily bode a "dramatic change." We've tried various approaches and they haven't worked," he said, mentioning the January summit.

Asked about the expectation of a new, bolder approach, the official stated: "I think the fear is that the US will seek to impose a solution or confront the parties with a solution. This is not our intent. We can suggest, we can encourage; we cannot do it. It's not a matter of confrontation or a question of imposing. We do not want to do the former, and we cannot do the latter."

But should the Americans decide to lay out their positions publicly, the presumption is that it would be to Israel's detriment.

There is no shortage of analysts who believe that pressure on Israel of any kind now would serve several purposes. It would stimulate a negotiating track that essentially doesn't exist; assert the US's determination to salvage the negotiations; inform one and all that when the principals are intransigent the US is not infinitely patient; and will step in; and warn

off the Europeans pining for a crack at mediating themselves. "I don't think the American

'I don't think we're near the end of the diplomatic effort. There's room for maneuver and compromise within the positions of the Americans and Israelis'

- Robert Sattoff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy

administration wanted to be making out its own position," said former assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs Richard Murphy. "It had happily continued the position for years that the parties had to work things out. It has now lost patience."

"It's come to the point of last resort for Washington to announce its plan. It has delayed coming to this point in the hope that the sides would work things out," Murphy added.

Still, not all advocates of a stronger US role believe it is a panacea.

"I think, right now, the US role is probably critical," said former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft. "Without it, the peace process is probably dead. My impression is the Netanyahu gov-

ernment does not want to implement the Oslo Accords in anything like their original intent. Therefore, if the Oslo process is to progress, the US must be involved. Left to their own devices, the two parties are not going to agree to anything."

But asked whether public pressure is the answer, Scowcroft said: "Probably, that is not realistic. I'd try to come as close to that as possible in order that something useful can be done." Announcing its own recommendations is a way to deal with the stalemate, Scowcroft said, but "I don't know whether that would work or not. I'm not sure."

On the question of whether continued stalemate offers an opportunity for the European Union or Russia to more aggressively insert itself into a perceived leadership vacuum, no serious analyst here sees that as a possibility. The US is the only game in town, they say, and will remain so, particularly following the mess British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook instigated in Jerusalem last week.

The Palestinians, said the US official, "for their own purposes, will seek to manipulate those parties in an effort to have us come in in a more intensive manner. It's a sideshow. Everyone knows it."

Meanwhile, leaders of American Jewish organizations, while not yet panicking, have told the administration in recent weeks that turning up the heat on Israel by going public with its recommendations is the wrong tactic. It is, they said, contrary to Clinton's long-standing policy of facilitating while not dictating, and dangerous for the message it would send to Arafat that Washington can "deliver" Israel for him.

Indeed, Howard Kohr, executive

director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), went public himself in a

to return," Kohr said in his speech. "At this moment, some in the State Department are starting to go

State Department is being goaded into this failed approach by the Palestinians, and this too is a mis-

'We can suggest, we can encourage; we cannot do it. It's not a matter of confrontation or a question of imposing. We do not want to do the former, and we cannot do the latter' - US official

speech this week on why the Clinton administration ought not go public. His remarks were uncharacteristically critical.

Speaking here on Tuesday to the United Jewish Appeal's young leadership division, Kohr said the pro-Israel lobbying group supports the administration's efforts "to assist the parties in reaching an agreement and recognizes the US's commitments to Israel's security."

"That is precisely why these latest developments are so troubling - because they threaten to undo so much good and send us down a path from which it will be difficult

seriously off-track, moving away from the proven methods that have produced progress," Kohr said.

"The State Department is now veering toward an approach that has never worked in the past, and in fact has only been counter-productive. Their idea of promulgating a so-called American plan and then using pressure tactics to try to coerce Israel into accepting it, has been tried repeatedly and has never worked. The government of Israel today is resisting this idea just as Golda Meir had to resist the Rogers Plan and just as Menachem Begin had to resist the Reagan Plan. The

take," Kohr concluded.

An AIPAC official said the organization has made this point repeatedly in recent meetings with US policymakers. Abe Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, stated that he has done the same.

Former US ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick echoed Kohr's comments in an interview, saying it was "inappropriate" for the US to "micromanage any other country's security policies, no matter how good our intentions are." She acknowledged that the US's traditional hands-off approach "doesn't mean we always get good

results," but stated that the administration must always bear in mind "the limits of US intervention with Israel," namely that Jerusalem alone must determine its vital territorial interests.

With all the buildup, one might assume that the US has reached the end of the road and that its only viable tactic now is to do what it has not done to date. But that is far from a certainty. Such a move would be highly out of character for an administration that recognizes its indispensability to the peace process since the marathon Hebron talks of late 1996 and early 1997. Ross is as acute and thorough a diplomat as the US has to the Middle East and one certainly not given to favoring public displays of disaffection. All the more so given Netanyahu's initiative.

In addition, it is far from certain that those voices favoring a more forceful American posture will prevail, regardless of the outcome of the current Ross mission. The AIPAC official described the administration as split between those like Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk who wish to "save Israel from itself," and those like Ross and Vice President Al Gore who believe that public pressure is not the way to go.

"I happen to think Dennis is not going out on a read-the-riot-act, take-it-or-leave-it initiative," said Robert Sattoff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "I think there'll be a lot of [American] listening as well as talking because there might be new ideas the prime minister might discuss."

"I don't think we're near the end of the diplomatic effort. There's room for maneuver and compromise within the publicly articulated positions of the Americans and Israelis."

The AIPAC official said the organization has taken no position on the question of how much territory Israel should yield in the next redeployment because such a discussion would be a "sterile debate." If the US decides to take a public stand and force the issue, Netanyahu will "mow the lawn with the administration" because the Israeli public will back his contention that Jerusalem alone decides peace and security issues.

He predicted that the more measured approach will win out. "Dennis Ross is... not stupid. He knows this is not the way to go."

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'I'm a happy fool'

In Israel this week
the UN secretary-general
displayed his knack for painting
a harsh picture in soft hues.
Thomas O'Dwyer reports

Israel has had little time for the last four United Nations secretaries-general, and that has been unfortunate. To have little time for the deceptively mild Kofi Annan of Ghana could prove unwise, say diplomats who have been watching him this week.

Annan told a quickly arranged forum of the Israel Council for Foreign Relations on Wednesday evening that he had come as a friend to Israel, but he had come "to speak out." He said it was one of those things that makes his Swedish wife Nane ask, "Why are you going to do this?"

"Shall we say, I'm a happy fool," is Annan's reply, "a fool who jumps into it, oblivious of the risks and the dangers, but who feels it has to be done."

"Speaking out" for the soft-spoken Annan is not the old familiar Israel-bashing. Diplomatic sources say he has been quietly dropping velvet-coated steel barbs in plenty of laps in the Middle East.

To the council's audience in the ballroom of Jerusalem's Laronne Hotel, Annan cited, by way of introduction, the theologian Martin Niemöller, who said about his remaining silent in 1930s Germany: "When they came for me, by that time no one was left to speak for me."

The world has become aware that the United Nations may now be headed by the consummate diplomat it has long been in need of. Annan paved the way for his hard facts of life for Israelis with some rarely heard diplomatic confessions of UN sins.

"The founding of Israel and the founding of the United Nations are connected in spirit and in history, in promise and in peril," Annan said. "Before and since, UN officials, civilians and military, have made the ultimate sacrifice in searching for peace between Israel and its neighbors. First among all of course was Count Bernadotte." (Folke Bernadotte, the first UN mediator, was assassinated by the Lehi underground in September 1948.)

Annan said he was well aware, however, how Israelis view the organization as having failed to live up to its founding spirit. "I know the organization is regarded by many as biased against the State of Israel. I know that Israelis see hypocrisy and double standards in the intense scrutiny given to some of their actions, while other situations fail to attract the world's outrage and condemnation."

"I know that Israelis are offended when other nations' delegates leave

the room as Israelis rise to speak. Abba Eban, one of the most eloquent and effective diplomats ever to grace the halls of the UN, was so discouraged by events [there] that he wrote: 'The world seemed to belong to our enemies.' Annan said he wanted to respond to these concerns with "a solemn pledge" that the time has come "to usher in a new era of relations" between Israel and the UN.

He said one concrete step would be to rectify an anomaly by which

it won a vote in the General Assembly. He described as "lamentable" the infamous 1975 "Zionism is racism" resolution bulldozed through the General Assembly by the unholy but unstoppable Cold War alliance of Soviet satellites, the Non-Aligned and Islamic organizations, and the Arab League. It was repealed in 1991, but Annan admitted the bad taste it left still lingers.

As well as Israel's anniversary, 1998 is also the 50th anniversary

Diplomatic sources say Annan has been quietly dropping velvet-coated steel barbs in plenty of Middle-Eastern laps - and now Israel's

Israel is the only member state that is not a member of one of the regional groups in the UN. "This means it has no chance of being elected to serve on such main bodies as the Security Council or the Economic and Social Council. This anomaly should be corrected."

Annan was halted by enthusiastic applause from a hotel ballroom packed to capacity with an invited audience, when he added: "We must uphold the principle of equality among all members of the United Nations."

In practical terms, Annan thinks that because it is "regrettable" Israel cannot join its natural regional group, the Mideast. East, for the present, it is better not to sit around and wait, but to lobby to join the Western European group. He has raised this with both the European group and Israel as a possibility so that, in time, Israel can play a fuller role in the UN, "when it can, for example, seek election to a seat in the Security Council - and win!"

But Annan said Israel must remain active in the international forums. "You have to engage them, explain your position. Where Israel does engage, it can sometimes have surprising results

of the historic UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "We must use this occasion to denounce antisemitism - in all its manifestations," Annan said.

"Human rights are African rights, and Asian rights, and American rights, and European rights. They are also Israeli rights and Palestinian rights. True faith has little respect for fanaticism and hatred - the problem usually is not the faith, the problem is with the faithful."

For the troublesome Israeli faithful, Annan said he was bearing three messages - one being that his efforts to normalize Israel's position within the UN should lead to Israel normalizing its attitude to the organization.

Another message, predictably, was that the Oslo peace process must continue and pick up momentum - driving too fast is one thing, he said, but here the danger is of driving too slowly.

"The pre-Oslo status is untenable. There is no viable alternative to Oslo, and grave consequences should it fail," Annan said.

"We are involved here in a process that will either move forward, or will move backwards, but that cannot for long remain stalled. It is therefore essential that

Israel and its adversaries commit themselves to a peace based on the principles enshrined in Resolutions 242 and 328 and the Oslo Agreement. That principle is land for peace.

"Israelis and Palestinians must persevere. There is no alternative unless you want the Palestinians and your neighbors to regress to the enmity of old."

But it was Annan's third message to Israel that he admitted caused him the worst difficulty. "As secretary-general of the United Nations I am now, and always have been, a friend of Israel. But I am also a friend of those with whom you may not always see eye to eye. Here is my challenge - I want Israel and its partners to make the difficult choices required for peace."

Changing to a distinctly sharper tone, Annan said that as a friend it gave him no pleasure to recite a list of grievances the international community had against Israel.

"But I think it is important for you to understand that those criticisms do not come out of the clear blue sky. Here is what the great majority of member states of the United Nations think," said Annan. And the world's top diplomat put it in a list:

• The states regard Israel as having been responsible directly or indirectly for provocative acts that undermine goodwill with its partners.

• In their view Israel has not abided by Security Council resolutions, has been slow to fulfill its obligations under the Oslo Agreements, and has made their implementation conditional in a way that the accords did not intend.

• They say Israel has expanded old settlements and started new ones.

• They are concerned by closures, road blocks and other restrictions that aggravate the economic and humanitarian crisis that faces the Palestinians.

• They regret other actions that take from the Palestinians their homes, their land, their jobs, their residence permits, and their very dignity.

"I ask you as a friend to accept the great mass of world opinion," said Annan. "That includes many countries sympathetic to Israel and to its dilemma who still feel Israel is doing a great deal of disservice to its cause and to its standing by persisting in these practices..."

"The promise of 1993 has become the crisis of expectations



Kofi Annan speaks straight from the shoulder: 'I am a friend of Israel, but I am also a friend of those with whom you may not always see eye to eye.'

(AP)

of 1998, for both peoples. I ask Israel to accept that just as you are entitled to ask your Palestinian partners to do their best to live up to their side of the bargain, so they, too, are justified in asking you to fulfill yours."

Annan said that in his talks across the region almost every Arab leader expressed strong support for a comprehensive peace with Israel.

"I am encouraged by this. However, they also are depressed and skeptical, and this stalling has

created a real crisis of confidence."

A diplomat present recalled being impressed by how quickly the newly elected Annan persuaded Washington to start paying its long-overdue contributions of \$1.5 billion to the UN "with a mixture of guile, mischief and charm." Vice president Al Gore was moved to comment to Annan: "We respect you for the person you are, and the leader you have become. You are among friends. We will pay up."

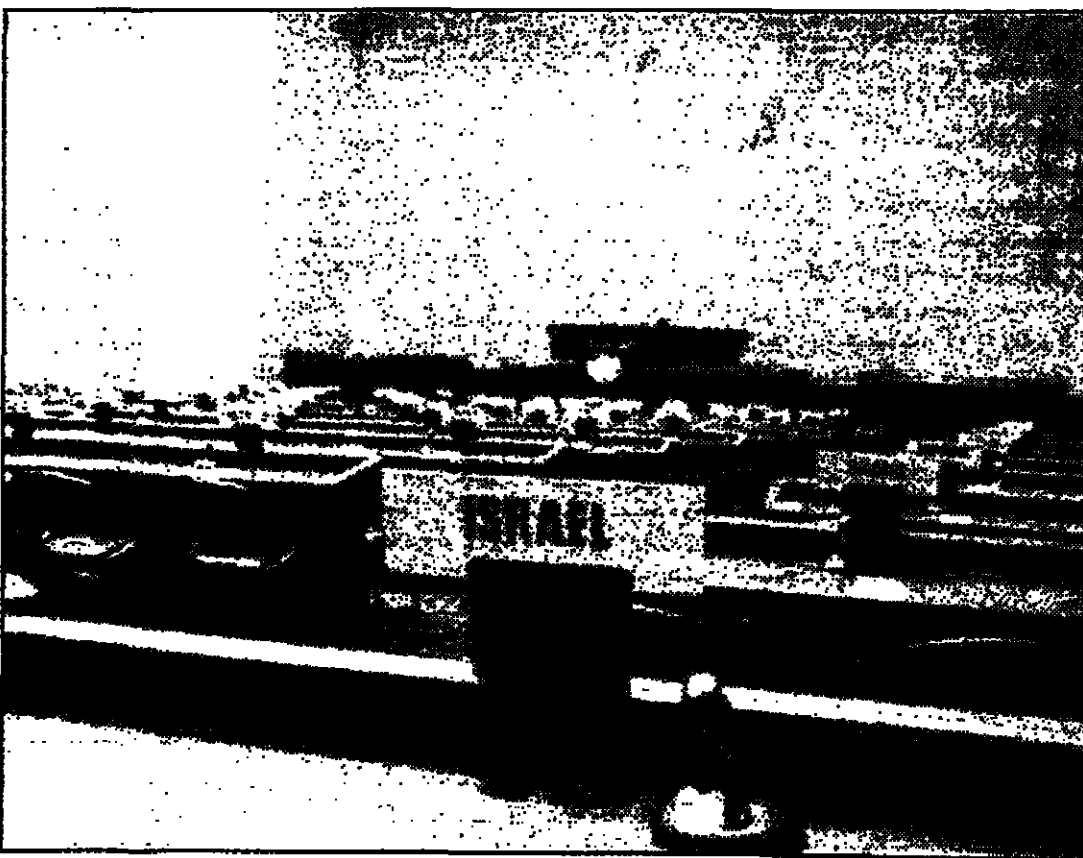
As Annan left the lecture room

to a standing ovation, many in the audience declared themselves impressed by this person and leader who had replaced Boutros Boutros Ghali.

The "happy fool" had again jumped in and won a few more friends - as he did two days earlier, speaking from an equally straight shoulder in Gaza, where he demanded that Palestinians renounce all violence. Whether anyone would pay up this time, in Oslo currency, remained an unanswered question.

Nothing positive to say

During Kofi Annan's first year as UN secretary-general the General Assembly's renewed enmity to Israel showed more in what wasn't said than in what was, writes Marilyn Henry from New York



Chilly isolation for Israel at the UN again.

(APF)

Council. The concept of the emergency session was created to bypass the council when it hit a stalemate and was unable to promote the UN mission of "maintaining international peace and security."

From 1956 until 1997, there had been only nine - and four of them involved Israel: in 1956, on the Suez crisis; in 1967, after the Six Day War; in 1980, on the "question of Palestine"; and in 1982, on the "situation in the Arab occupied territories and the Syrian Golan Heights."

The other sessions concerned the 1956 Soviet invasion of Hungary and its later invasion of Afghanistan, the 1958 govern-

ment crisis in Lebanon, and crises in the Congo (1960) and Namibia (1981).

The assembly determined last April that the council had hit an impasse when, in debates on March 7 and March 21, 1997, the US twice vetoed resolutions that would have condemned Israel for Har Homa. An emergency session has no legal effect because assembly votes are not binding. But it would boost the international pressure on Israel, exacerbate Israel's isolation at the UN, and lead to Jerusalem's irritation with the new secretary-general.

The assembly vote in April condemned the Jerusalem building project and demanded an immedi-

ate halt to construction on Har Homa, and alluded to a boycott when it called for an end to all assistance to "illegal Israeli activities" in the occupied territories. The assembly also asked Annan to "monitor the situation and to submit a report" within two months. Annan reported back that, because of restrictions imposed by Israel on the scope of the proposed mission, it had not been possible to dispatch an envoy to Israel and the territories. The report he did submit was based instead on what Annan called "reliable sources available to the United Nations at headquarters and in the field."

The Har Homa project posed a serious threat to Arab-Israeli peace

and was "seen as the final step toward the isolation of Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank," Annan reported.

The Israeli ambassador to the UN, Dore Gold, assailed Annan's report as "hostile" and "one-sided."

That was a year ago. By the time Annan came to Jerusalem this week, Israel had been through three additional emergency sessions, in which the assembly condemned "illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory." The emergency sessions are a "masquerade," Gold has said, and he has rebuked the UN for "permitting itself to be abused, again and again, as part of a political campaign."

But the campaign seems to be expanding. In its sessions, the assembly also has agitated for plans that would lead to a convening of a Fourth Geneva Convention, which deals with the treatment of civilians on occupied land. There is essentially no Western support for such a convention, which has never been called. But momentum was building, at least for a meeting of experts to plan such an event, as if to serve as some kind of valve for the pressure that has been brewing from the atmospherics alone.

As Annan's first year drew to an end, the General Assembly's annual votes on the "question of Palestine" were, as in years past, crushing majorities against Israel, which usually can count on support from only the US and Micronesia.

There was one dramatic moment, however, when the Palestinians were rebuffed in their effort to upgrade their status at the UN from observers to nearly that of a state. The proposal, sponsored by the Arab states, would have given the Palestinians, who have had observer status since 1974, a more elevated position than Switzerland or the Vatican.

Gold was jubilant. "For the first time in many years in the General Assembly, Israel was left alone with the United States and Micronesia," he said.

Nevertheless, only three years after heralding the clean slate, Israel was left without the resolution on the peace process, and when the assembly wrapped up its work for 1997, there was nothing positive.

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Virtual terror: Threat of a new world disorder

In today's computer age terrorists are searching for ways to cause havoc by remote control — but Israel has only just woken up to the threat. Arie O'Sullivan talks to the cyber-terrorism experts

Ever lie awake at night wondering if legions of mercenary hackers, in league with terrorist organizations or rogue states, are working to bring down banks and stock exchanges and cripple vital infrastructures with computer viruses and other malevolent software?

Naw, it's just a dream. This James-Bond type of nightmare is too far off to be real.

And then you wake up to reports that an Israeli teenage master hacker has been caught after mounting a sophisticated cyber-assault on the Pentagon's computer systems.

And then you start wondering: Was that crash of the Hong Kong stock market last fall perhaps some plot of a mad terror group?

According to experts in terrorism and information warfare specialists, we are on the verge, if not already in the midst, of the "cyber-terrorism" age. Add to this the threat of unaccounted-for nuclear bombs — some that can fit into a suitcase — and biological weapons, and you've got "super-terrorism."

"This is a new form of warfare. It isn't conventional, and we have to think about the unthinkable," says terrorism expert Prof. Yonah Alexander.

Thinking about the unthinkable was exactly what a gathering of experts did in Israel last week. They came from around the world to discuss the phenomenon at an international conference called Threats of the Technological Age, co-sponsored by the Terrorism Studies Program at George Washington University, the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies in Holon and Tel Aviv University's Curiel Center for International Studies. Not surprisingly, perhaps, participants came up with more questions than answers.

Conference organizer Alexander believes that the globalization of cultures, economies and security opens us up to a "new world disorder" and a globalization of crime and terrorism.

Technology has created an interconnected world. But the benefits of this contain a great flaw, with each connection creating new exposures and risks, making us more vulnerable.

IN OTHER words, today's problem is that there are too many "doors," and you can never be sure who will drop by for a visit via the Internet.

"We are moving toward a new age of Internet or 'click' terrorism," Alexander says. "Like Kodak used to say: 'Push the button, and we'll do the rest.' This is the new face of

terrorism in the future."

According to Alexander, author of numerous books on terrorism, today's terror groups, including Hizbullah and Hamas, use the Internet for propaganda and psychological warfare purposes. (If you want a taste, check out <http://www.almanar.com.lb>.)

But, says Alexander, the Internet is also being used by terror groups to recruit members and transfer orders. In some ways, he notes, the Internet has replaced military training camps by putting recruits for bombs on line.

"Today there is basically no need for training camps, because you can get information on the Internet on how to make both conventional and non-conventional weapons," Alexander says. But that's just the mild stuff.

Alexander notes that in today's computer age you don't need tanks and infantry to disrupt a country's infrastructure. It can be done by someone sitting in front of a computer screen tens of thousands of miles away.

Examples of cyber-terrorism made their rounds at the conference. One was the idea that terrorists could alter the formula at a food-company plant, poisoning its product.

Terrorists can and do use the Internet to put out disinformation, search for targets, steal information and work to alter opinions through chat groups.

"You have a clear-cut proof of agent coordination," says Dr. Joseph Hershko, a lecturer and scientist at the Center for Technological Education in Holon. Hershko has developed a program to send 20,000 e-mail messages an hour.

"This is sabotage," he notes grimly. "If I sent you 20,000 e-mails an hour your server would crash."

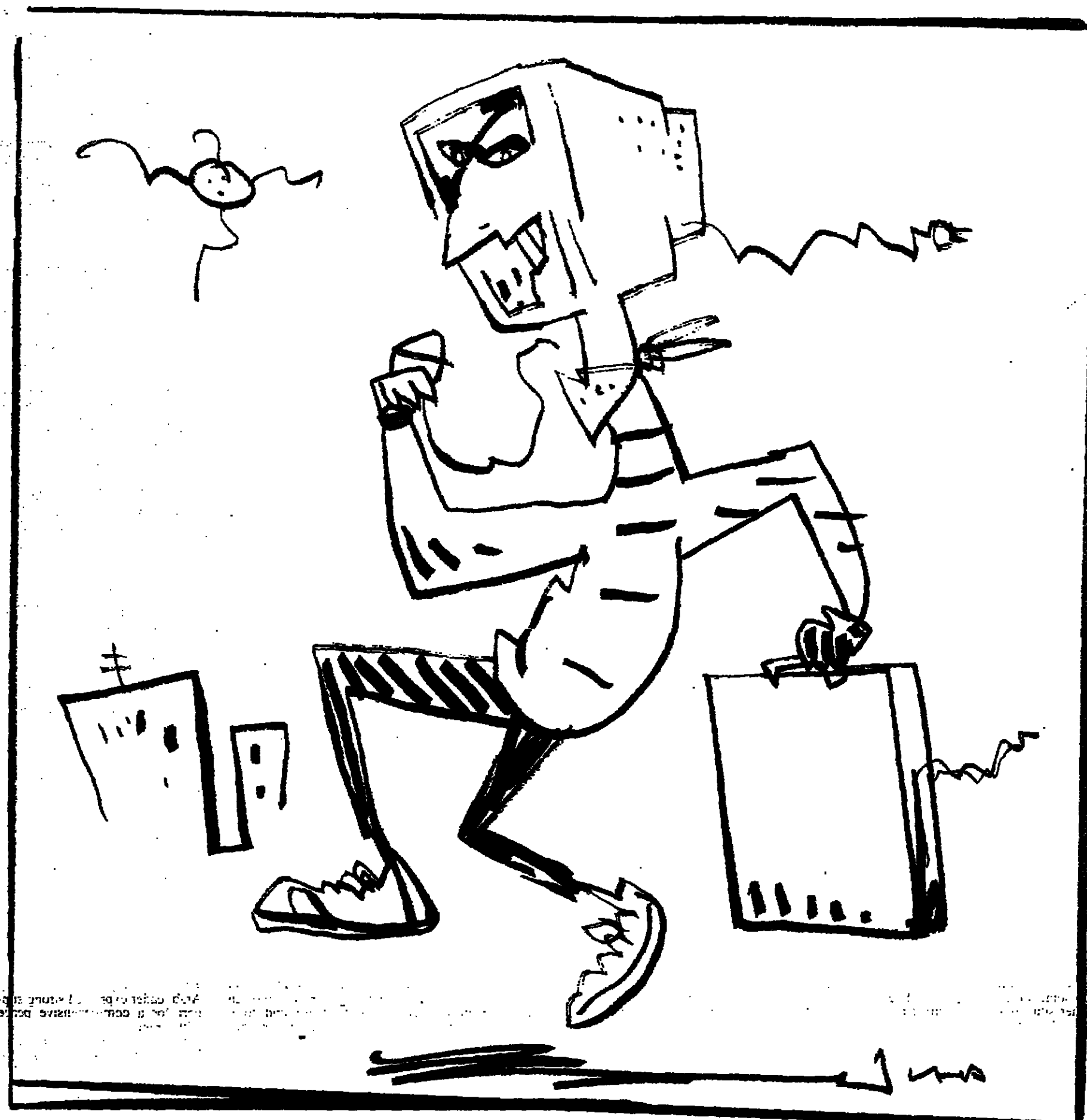
There was general agreement at the conference not to say too much — "because I don't want to give anyone any ideas," as one participant put it.

But what else could cyber-terrorists do?

ONE US scenario goes something like this: Using hacked information, a list of employees at a highly classified military installation could be put together. By manipulating computer records, a designated person's credit rating could be demolished, thus removing him from sensitive positions.

With the right timing and frequency, the move could be done just before the onset of hostilities, thus confounding the installation's capabilities.

Sounds complicated and confus-



ing? In fact, much of cyber-terrorism is intangible. One of the most problematic aspects of the phenomenon is knowing if, and when, you are under attack.

There's another difficulty. Once you recognize you are under cyber-terrorist attack, it's hard to figure out who it is that is attack-

ing you. This of course makes retaliation even more complicated and diminishes the effect of deterrence.

Thus, should the water system fail, knocked out by a bug in the electric company, the only thing a government can do is... fix it.

No revenge. No air strike on a hidden guerrilla camp. Nothing but hire a slew of computer experts to set up what are called "firewalls" to prevent it happening again.

MARVIN Leibstone, an information warfare analyst and former army colonel, believes cyber-terrorism is a real threat.

"The tactical inventory of political terror groups is rapidly declining," says Leibstone, a former member of the US Marines Green Berets unit. Leibstone says that improvements in security have made it much more difficult to take hostages, stage guerrilla attacks and launch bombs than in the past.

"Terrorists are looking for remote means of causing havoc," Leibstone says, citing possible ways groups could use the Internet overtly to push forward their cause.

They could negotiate on line, and by breaking into a computer could, for example, demonstrate certain scenarios their group intended to carry off. They could control resources, and let the world know they were doing it.

Other examples, says Leibstone, include holding a referendum on line — the results of which could be used to show that their group had more popular support than previously thought, thus forcing governments to alter their policies.

According to Alexander, cyber-terrorist attacks could come from other sources too.

A disgruntled employee, an irresponsible computer hacker, an organized crime syndicate or a hostile foreign nation — all of these could unleash cybernetic sabotage.

Targets could include telecommunications, electric power systems, transportation and oil and gas distribution, as well as banking and finance, water supply systems, government services and even such emergency services as medical, fire, police and rescue.

In many cases, damage in one area will have a domino effect. This begs the question of whether defense against this kind of threat to a nation's vital inter-

ests is the responsibility of the military or the government. (And there are those who say that what we are up against isn't cyber-terrorism at all, just plain old crime with a new twist.)

Leibstone believes that in the US the free market will come up with a solution to the cat-and-mouse game with hackers and terrorists. But in Israel, Alexander says, we are in a heap of trouble.

He states it as fact that Israel's traditional terrorist enemies — Hamas, Hizbullah and the PLO — have sent students abroad specifically to study computer science and nuclear physics.

"Israel is just beginning to wake up to this threat," Alexander says,

of America's \$7.5 trillion economy is actually in hard currency. The rest is electronic. Scary.

He suggests confounding cyber-assault with "biometrics": the use of palm prints, iris and voice patterns and DNA characteristics in gaining access to computer systems.

But for the moment, Stevens admits, hackers have the upper hand.

"With the dismemberment of the Soviet Union sophisticated computer operators in their intelligence apparatus found themselves needing to make money. Many headed to the Mafia crime organizations. They are the biggest exporters of cyber-terrorism."

Stevens says.

In the US, President Bill Clinton is reportedly expected to sign a historic directive to protect the US from what is being dubbed an "electronic Pearl Harbor." The directive is to include a series of far-reaching initiatives to bolster America's protection against computer attacks and focus on cyber-security and infrastructure protection.

According to *Jane's Defense Weekly*, the Pentagon suffered over 250,000 break-ins last year.

One particularly "heavy duty" information attack on a Pentagon computer came during the recent crisis with Iraq, but Pentagon officials claim it was unrelated.

Soon afterwards FBI agents came here to investigate the serious break-in, and almost immediately after that police detained Ehud Tannenbaum, the 18-year-old Israeli hacker known as "Analyzer." Could Tannenbaum — or someone like him — have been the perpetrator?

Experts say that even if Tannenbaum was responsible, that means he's smart — but, despite the media hype, not that sophisticated an operator.

ONE FEAR is that freelance hackers will offer their services to terror groups, or even countries, for a profit.

According to recent reports, a Dutch hacker ring called High Tech for Peace allegedly went to the Iraqi embassy in Paris during the US Gulf War buildup and offered to foul up the network handling logistics messages between bases in the US and the American military units in Saudi Arabia.

According to John Fialka's book, *War By Other Means: Economic Espionage in America*, Saddam Hussein turned down the offer.

Hussein and scientifically-challenged terror groups are reportedly more interested in less sophisticated doomsday toys — biological weapons.

The running theory holds that traditional terrorists want a lot of people watching, and not a lot of people dead. The exception to the rule are religious extremists.

"Biological weapons kill people but leave buildings standing, so they are the preferred weapons of religious fundamentalists who want to keep shrines intact," says David Siegrist, a researcher at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies.

Earlier this month, the US Department of Defense acknowledged publicly that the military has ultra-secret, covert-action teams to combat cyber-terrorism.

Called Special Mission Units, according to the *Defense News* weekly, the teams are also designated to fight the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

It cannot be confirmed, but the assumption is that the IDF is also moving in this sphere. According to top IDF scientists, there is a growing computer proliferation in the Middle East. But Arab nations are "pretty primitive."

"The asymmetry is that Israel is more vulnerable to cyber-attack than they are," says one top IDF scientist, who did not take part in the conference and spoke on condition of anonymity.

As Alexander sees it, it is just a question of time until the attack comes.

"In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s terrorism was manifested by the physical actions of attacks, hostage-taking, hijackings and bombings. The 1990s and the next decade will be seen as the decade of super-terrorism."

"The impending doomsday scenario is not a question of if," warns Alexander. "It's a question of when."

'You're fired!' (no, not really)

by Elizabeth C. Johnson

Several leading electronic mail software packages used by corporations can be hijacked, making a message sent from one side via the Internet look like it came from someone within the company. It's a new variation on "spoofing," an old Internet practice of sending print messages that aren't from whom they appear to be, and it's turning some US offices.

The problem is that office mail software has become so elaborate that it can inadvertently hide clues that a message may be bogus. And although there are ways to prevent the practice, computer system administrators are typically so swamped with other responsibilities that they take precautions against such digital impersonations.

"I estimate that under 10 percent of companies have real security," said Bruce Robertson, a program director at the West Group, a consulting and financial research group in Boston.

Mike McClary, until recently a manager with Ernst & Young's information technology group in St. Louis, would agree.

A few weeks ago McClary was using his personal Internet account to send a message from home to his electronic in-box at the office. When he went to work the next morning, he opened the message and was surprised to see that it looked like he had sent it from the company's internal messaging system — not from his Internet.

The reason was that McClary had done something routinely

done by many people using home Internet accounts: he had changed his e-mail address to his company's address.

But when he went to work the next morning, he found that his e-mail address had been changed back to his home address.

When McClary saw his e-mail address had been changed back to his home address, he was puzzled. He didn't know who had done it.

When he called his company's IT department, he was told that his e-mail address had been changed back to his home address.

"When you're using a company e-mail account, you have to be careful," said Scott Hamilton, a security expert at the West Group.

Hamilton says that many companies have security policies that require employees to use company e-mail accounts.

But McClary says that he was told that his e-mail address had been changed back to his home address.

There are possible legal repercussions to spoofing. In litigation, a key piece of evidence of racial and gender discrimination at several companies has been the identity of an e-mail sender. In one case, the identity of a person who sent a threatening e-mail was a key piece of evidence.

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Even the Justice Department is relying on electronic mail messages it collected in Microsoft as some of the evidence it hopes will convince a court that the software giant violated a 1995 consent decree.

But computer experts say that with a little detective work, they can trace most spoofed messages to their real senders.

"What this gets down to is verifying authenticity," said Lance Shaw, a product manager at Lotus Development Corp. "It's a big issue on the Internet right now. E-mail is one facet of it."

The "only way to completely stop out bogus mail is to use software that lets users digitally sign" electronic mail with a unique code, experts say.

"When you're out in the world, you need a way of knowing who you really are," Shaw said, adding that that requires systems vendors to "agree on security standards as to what you get mail from. So, you can unlock the message."

Lotus has been a leader in including digital signature technology in its Notes software. So far, however, the technology is used only within office systems.

But now software companies are developing standards for use on the Internet as a whole — though that doesn't mean people will get around to using them.

Scott Gode, a product manager at Microsoft, pointed out that the type of security loophole encountered by McClary is described in the literature that accompanies Microsoft's Outlook electronic mail package. But frequently, he said, technically savvy computer experts may not bother reading through all the manuals.

(Washington Post)

A marriage of convenience

Allison Kaplan Sommer examines the motives behind the bizarre new political union formed by Meretz and Geshet for the Histadrut elections

Few people believe that the marriage of Meretz and Geshet for the Histadrut elections will ever blossom into the kind of romance that could translate into wider gains for either party on a national political level.

The differences between these parties' constituencies are vast. Meretz is a bastion of left-wing Ashkenazim who tend to be more committed to issues than personalities: civil rights, feminism and fighting religious coercion. Geshet's core supporters are right-wing, working-class, traditional Sephardim, who identify with the party's leader, former foreign minister David Levy.

The decision by Meretz this week to back Geshet's Maxim Levy for Histadrut chairman against incumbent Amir Peretz in the June elections is politically expedient, practical, and may even turn out to be successful.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid proclaimed the union a "natural alliance," and even held out hope for future cooperation in this year's municipal elections.

But is the coalition "natural?"

Hardly.

In presenting the merger to the public, the parties' leaders seem to have downplayed political considerations in favor of the romance of a new force in Israeli politics — North Tel Aviv yuppie limousine liberals uniting with the underclass in the style of the American Democratic Party.

The media have regarded the phenomenon with deep interest.

"I believe it is something the Israeli public would like to see, a truly Ashkenazi party together with a truly Mizrahi party, viewed as positively working together with a shared socio-economic ideology under the same umbrella," says Sam Lehman-Wilzig, professor of political science at Bar-Ilan University.

As such, the Meretz-Geshet coalition was born of necessity, in the aftermath of a decision by Peretz to bring Likud and Labor together with his "Ram" party (which had included Shas, Meretz and a breakaway Labor Party faction) in a "wall-to-wall coalition" for the election.

Maxim Levy decided to challenge Peretz, and Meretz was in the market for a new alliance, since Shas had notified Peretz that it would no longer sit in a coalition with Meretz.

Yet the union is clearly a gamble for both sides, particularly Geshet. Geshet MK David Magen has expressed concern that the name "Meretz" is anathema to his party's supporters. He has said that no matter what advantage lining up with Meretz might do for Geshet in the

Histadrut, the association would damage their image should they run together in a national race.

Veteran activists in disadvantaged neighborhoods scoff at the move as an attempt by Meretz to use Geshet to penetrate an electorate that has always been hostile towards them.

"Strategically it's a real achievement — a clever and sophisticated move," says Charlie Biton, a former Knesset member and veteran social activist. "But does Meretz have a chance of building any kind of support in the neighborhoods? About as much chance as I have of rebuilding the Temple, I'd say."

"If they ever want to connect with the Sephardim, they have to change deep, deep down. For all their talk of reconciliation and peace, they fought tooth and nail against the pardons for prisoners in the jubilee year. Anyway, there is no way they can get past the hate people have for people like Yossi Sarid and the kibbutzim and the Mapainiks in Meretz," Biton adds.

On the other hand, some would argue that Geshet has little to lose. Since the party rode to political power on the coattails of the Likud victory in 1996, it has little concrete idea of how it would fare running separately, following David Levy's falling out with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his subsequent resignation from the cabinet.

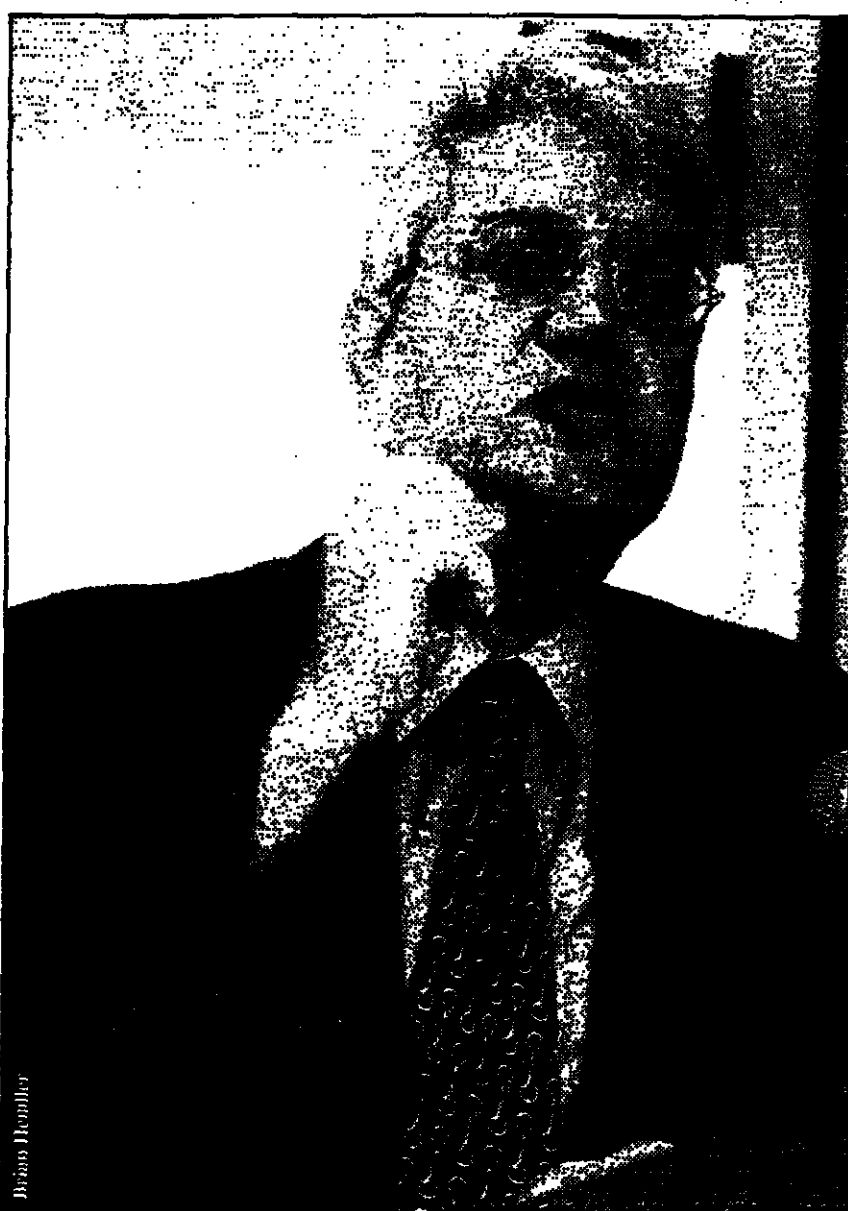
David Levy has said that "a social front with Geshet and Meretz is vital to fight against the two major parties, which are ignoring the workers' problems."

Gaining power in the Histadrut, even alongside Meretz, and using it as a launching pad to wage battles for the diversion of national resources to development towns instead of haredi yeshivot could help give Geshet the edge it needs against forces like Shas.

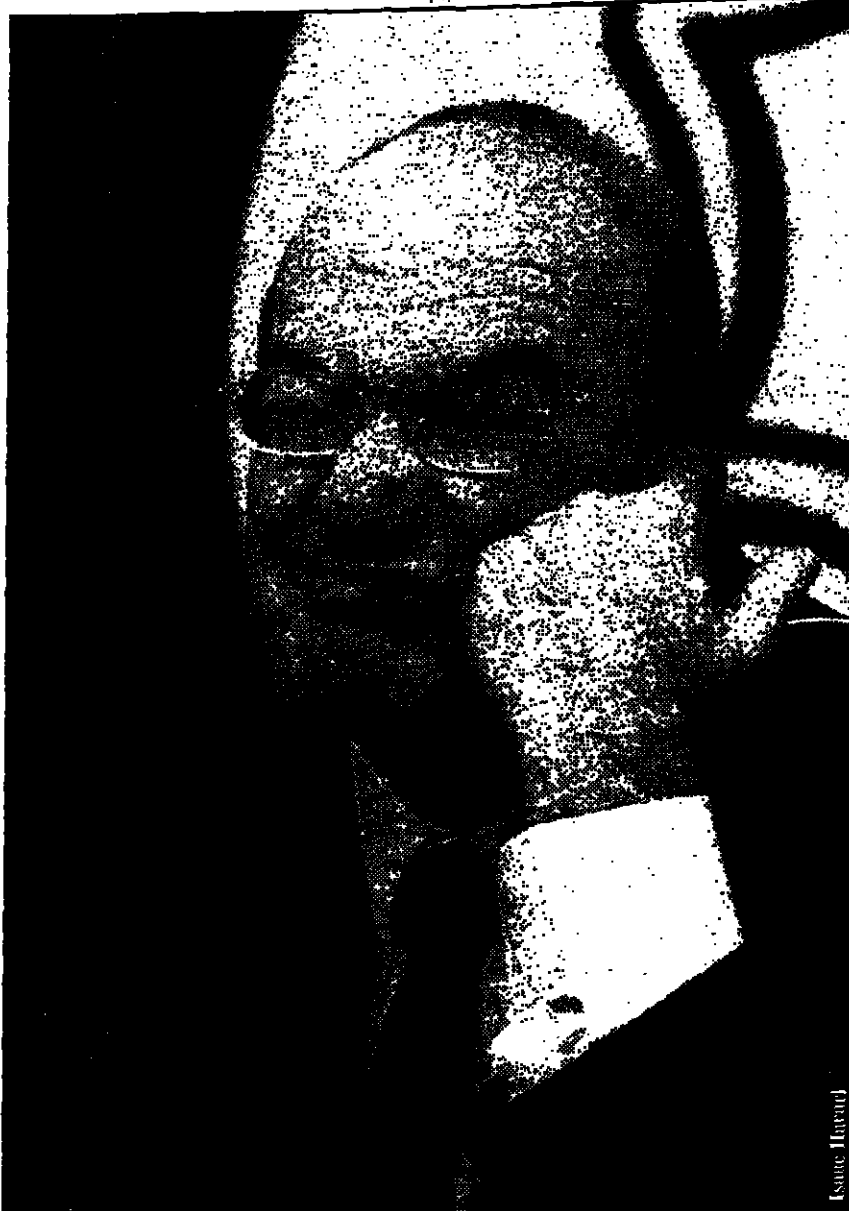
But Biton is pessimistic. He sees little that Geshet has built that can compete with the infrastructure of Likud or Shas in development towns, and there is little a merger with Meretz can do to add to its clout.

"Alone or together, I don't think Geshet and Meretz are going to get anywhere," Biton says. "They're like two dishrags that someone sewed together to make a dress. The dishrags don't match and the dress looks unusual so it's interesting — but who cares? It's still a dress made out of rags."

Then there is the problem of Geshet being associated with the often controversial views of Meretz on peace-related issues. There was a problem in this area the very day the alliance was announced — graffiti were spray-painted on the



Geshet leader David Levy (left) and Meretz head Yossi Sarid are hardly blushing bride and glowing groom: For Geshet the union is a gamble, while Meretz could find itself the victim of Levy's notorious tantrums and ultimatums.



Geshet office in Jerusalem calling David Levy an agent of the PLO.

Yet, even the man who is arguably the most right-wing member of Geshet, MK Michael Kleiner, supports the Meretz alliance, and calls it a "political necessity."

It is true that Kleiner, who heads the Land of Israel Front in the Knesset, is unable to work up much enthusiasm for Meretz. He admits that he would have been happier had the Likud supported Maxim Levy instead of Peretz — that alliance would have been far more "natural" in his eyes. But he does not worry that aligning with Meretz in the Histadrut will undermine Geshet's support.

Even running together in municipal elections would not be anathema.

"People in Israel are intelligent, and they know the difference between Histadrut and local elections and national Knesset elections. I am completely

against any national deal with Meretz. But locally? Listen, in some municipalities we cooperate with Shas, in others, we negotiate with Meretz or Labor, it all has to do with local needs."

"The Histadrut and local elections are not about ideology, they are about who the best candidate is and what serves the goal of making Geshet a stronger party," Kleiner says.

Kleiner admits, however, that "Geshet is giving Meretz a legitimacy that I am not happy with." He also scoffs at the romantic vision painted of Meretz and Geshet hand in hand, fighting for social justice for the oppressed.

"Unfortunately, with the exception of a few in Meretz like Haim Oron and Ran Cohen, I don't see them losing any sleep over poor people."

In reality, Meretz represents a grab bag

of economic ideologies from free-market to hard-line socialists. If Levy were to try to rally the joint list against privatization of government companies, for example, he would run into problems with Meretz's Amnon Rubinstein.

On the Meretz side of the union, there is less at stake. Meretz has little to lose by being associated with Geshet, and only electoral strength to gain, as well as the hope of shedding an image of a detached and condescending party, removed from the concerns of the average citizen.

The greatest danger to Meretz, some observers say, are the well-known pitfalls of going into partnership with David Levy — the risk of falling victim to his famous tantrums and ultimatums.

"You, Yossi Sarid, like [former prime ministers Menachem] Begin, [Yitzhak] Shamir and Netanyahu before you, are

going to be charged with racism if you don't give in to Levy. And since you won't want a divorce from Levy with the stamp of racism on your forehead, you will surrender and, as usual, in your articulate Hebrew, will have to explain it away," warned political commentator Gary Avneri this week in the *Tsomet* Hasharon newspaper.

Viewing the phenomenon from a historical perspective, the Meretz-Geshet union "is probably the final blow to the conventional partnerships and alliances in Israeli politics," concludes Peter Medding, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He traces the change from the beginning of direct elections for prime minister, which has driven parties to line up behind individuals who look as if they are going to win, loosening the hold of party loyalty and ideology.



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Simon Epstein: 'Everything runs on bribes - in Russia and in Israel too. If you try to do things honestly, you won't get anywhere.' (Jonathan Bloom)

The Lerner legend

In the shopping center of Ashdod's "Yud" neighborhood, the lingua franca is Russian. The signs on the real-estate offices, delicatessens, shoe-repair stands and other businesses are printed in Russian and Hebrew. To the immigrants of "Yud," Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly known as Gregory Lerner, who this week confessed to 13 counts of fraud and attempted bribery, is as much a martyr as ever.

"He's not mafia - Israel is mafia, the government is mafia," said Gennady Sherman, sitting in a barber's chair.

"I'm not saying he's a hero, I'm saying he's a victim," said the barber, Edward Binyaminov.

The police and the prosecutors got the order from their higher-ups that the bankers and politicians don't want Lerner to compete with them, so they stopped him," said real-estate agent Yefim Kolominsky.

"Everything runs on bribes - in Russia and in Israel too. If you try to do things honestly, you won't get anywhere," said restaurant owner Simon Epstein.

But it wasn't just the immigrant man-on-the-street who thought Ben-Ari had gotten shafted; Russian immigrants at the top of the Israeli establishment thought so as well.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky said that between the police leaks and the media's stories about the Russian mafia, Ben-Ari's case had turned into "a second Eichmann trial." The handling of the case had badly stigmatized Russian immigrants, Sharansky said, and soured hundreds of thousands of Jews still in Russia on Israel.

Avigdor Lieberman, who in the past has accused police of harassing him because of his Russian background, said the media and justice system should engage in "soul-searching" for having turned Ben-Ari into an immigrant hero.

MK Marina Solodkin of Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'aliya party said she believed police had "broken" Ben-Ari during his 10 months in jail; she compared his confession to that of prisoners of the Soviet era "who took responsibility for things they were not guilty of because of

Zvi Ben-Ari's conviction isn't the point for Russian immigrants. For them their countryman's rise and fall symbolizes something else altogether. Larry Derfner reports

their conditions in prison."

Anybody who thought Lerner's confession would turn Russian immigrants against him, and make them realize that he's a dangerous criminal and that the Israeli justice system was right all along, was badly mistaken.

No matter that police said he was trying to open an Israeli bank so he could launder Russian mafia money through it. No matter that police still suspect he was behind the murder of a Russian banker and the attempted murder of another.

No matter that Ben-Ari confessed to trying to bribe Sharansky, MK Shimon Peres and MK Nissim Ziv, and of defrauding Russian banks out of \$48 million. (Ben-Ari agreed to pay NIS 5 million in fines, but his sentencing is not over; he still faces a likely prison term to be decided on by Jerusalem District Court Judge Ezra Kama.)

To most Russian immigrants, Ben-Ari's confession was only further proof of the Israeli establishment's malign intentions. In Ashdod, immigrants said they thought Ben-Ari was victimized partly because he was a Russian, but more because he was a rich contender who wanted to horn in on Israeli banking, media and politics.

"All the bankers got together and said, 'This guy Lerner is trying to compete for our customers, he's going to offer them higher interest and better terms, and they're going to run to him.' They didn't want an outsider to destroy their monopoly," said Binyaminov the barber. His customer, Sherman, agreed, saying, "This country is controlled by about 10 people in the government."

Ethnic discrimination played a lesser but still important part in Ben-Ari's "harassment," immigrants said. "When Israelis see a

Russian who lives well, who has a villa and lots of money, many just can't stand it," said Binyaminov.

So here is a large population of highly intelligent, well-educated immigrants who, on the whole, haven't done badly in Israel. Yet they seem convinced that (1) Israel is more or less corrupt as Russia, and (2) the legal, financial, political and media establishments here conspired to frame a man because he has the wrong ethnicity and too much money.

How to explain this belief? Tel Aviv University professor of history Michael Harsgor, a popular commentator on Israeli-social and political affairs, said, "They're not stupid - they're Russian. That's the point." It's a matter of national character, Harsgor maintained. For all their intellectual brilliance, their vaunted scientific and cultural achievements, Russians are political "primitives" whose view of events is distorted by inbred cynicism and paranoia, he said.

"They carry the miserable Russian political history on their necks. For 200 years they didn't manage to come up with a decent political system. They went from tyranny to tyranny," Harsgor explained - from czarism to communism to present-day mafia capitalism. "All along, complex events in Russia have been understood as the result of intrigues and conspiracy," he added, and the immigrants brought this understanding with them to Israel.

His Russian immigrant friends, Harsgor continued, "have degrees and doctorates, they adore Tolstoy, but politically they think like ignoramuses."

A number of these academic friends, Harsgor noted, reacted to

this week's sentencing of IDF soldier Sergei Kaufman, a ringleader in last August's inmate revolt at Military Prison No. 6, by blaming Israeli ethnic discrimination. "They told me, 'If his name had been Avraham and not Sergei, nothing would have happened to him,'" Harsgor said.

Part of this "paranoia," he added, is bred in Israel. "The Russians haven't yet made it into the Israeli elite, which makes them resentful because they think they're better than Israelis, they look down on Israelis. They think, 'Who are these Israelis, these Asiatics, who dare to try to bring down a man of Lerner's stature?'"

Dov Kontorer, a columnist at Vesti, Israel's largest Russian-language newspaper, offered an altogether different explanation for Ben-Ari's popularity.

"People think that Lerner was hounded for doing what all sorts of other rich Israelis get away with every day," Kontorer said. Naming two well-known financial contributors to Israeli political campaigns, Kontorer asked, "Hand on your heart, are you ready to say that what they do is all that different from what Lerner did [in trying to bribe politicians]? I'm not." Kontorer went on to say that it was "sad" that Ben-Ari had become a hero. "It's probably safe to say that he's no little swindler," he said.

"The mistake by Russian immigrants is to think that the Israeli establishment pursued Lerner out of malice. They didn't do it out of discrimination, or fear of competition, but out of lack of understanding, even stupidity," Kontorer insisted.

The line between mafia capitalism and legitimate business in Russia is terribly indistinct, he said. "And I don't believe that Israeli police investigators are equipped to make the distinction." By falling hard on Ben-Ari and warning of the threat by other Russian mafia figures to buy their way into the upper reaches of Israeli power, police left immigrants fearing "that anybody here who does business with Russians or with Russian money is going to be seen as mafia," Kontorer said.



Ben-Ari at a Jerusalem court this week: Not just the immigrant man-on-the-street but also Russian immigrants at the top of the Israeli establishment thought Ben-Ari had been shafted. (AP)

Last week some 5,000 Russian immigrants protested on Ben-Ari's behalf outside the Knesset. A book of 250 pro-Ben-Ari articles printed in the Russian-language press is being published. Pollster Dr. Mina Tzemah found that 54% of Russian immigrants believe Ben-Ari was discriminated against because of his ethnic background, and 73% think he confessed because of the pressures he underwent in prison.

Max Lurie, also a columnist for Vesti, wrote that if Ben-Ari decided to run for the Knesset he would win tremendous Russian immigrant support. To Russian immigrants, he wrote, Ben-Ari symbolizes success in their fight against "the economic and political mafia of Israel." The question of Ben-Ari's innocence or guilt isn't important to immigrants, Lurie continued; what's important is their belief that "they're beating up on one of ours!"

Behind his Ashdod restaurant counter, Epstein said, "I wouldn't say I admire Lerner, I'm sure he did some bad things. But I admire his head for making money. Basically, he's a good businessman. If he tried to bribe politicians, that's wrong, but that's the way the system works."

The barber, Binyaminov, raised this point: "Lerner lived in Ashkelon. He gave a lot of money to a school there, to a hospital there, to the city in general. Why didn't any of his benefactors ask where he got his money?"

Sherman, sitting in the barber's chair, said, "Maybe he did something wrong in Russia, but he didn't do anything wrong here. He confessed because he had no choice. He



Gennady Sherman, sitting in a barber's chair: 'Lerner's not mafia - Israel is mafia, the government is mafia.' Barber Edward Binyaminov: 'I'm not saying he's a hero, I'm saying he's a victim.' (Jonathan Bloom)

sat in jail for 10 months, and they just broke him. He'd had enough."

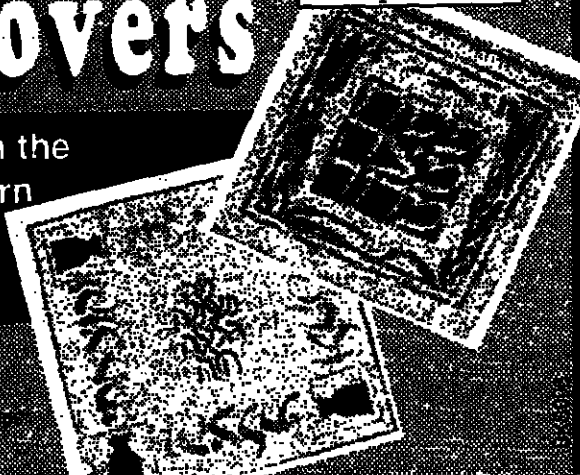
Yet real-estate agent Kolominsky was sure Ben-Ari would have the last laugh. "He'll never be sentenced to prison," Kolominsky said. "He'll buy off the judge, he'll

buy off whoever he has to."

No matter what - whether he's an accused heavyweight criminal or a confessed heavyweight criminal, in the hearts of masses of Russian immigrants, the legend of Gregory Lerner lives on.

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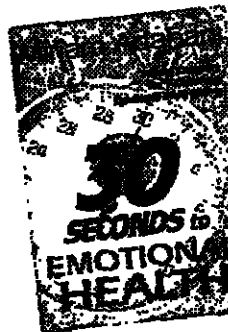
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The 'fledgling psychopaths'

Struggling to shed light on the schoolyard killings in Arkansas – the latest of three such incidents in the last five months – social scientists, physicians and policy experts Wednesday cited factors from ready access to guns to the specter of a new type of student-criminal: the "fledgling psychopath."

Experts also laid the burden of blame on a popular culture that often glorifies violence as a way of solving personal problems. Some put the incident in the broader social context of violence against women, given that the teacher and four students gunned down were female and the two assassins are boys, 11 and 13.

At the same time, some experts cautioned against overreacting. "This whole series of middle school and high school shootings is outside the envelope of the usual youth crime epidemic," said Frank Zimring, professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley. "Youth firearm violence is way down from its 1993-94 peak and there is no indication of a turnaround."

Nevertheless, this week's shooting in Jonesboro has aroused anxieties, particularly in the South, where all three of the fatal school shooting incidents – two in Arkansas and one in Mississippi – have occurred. Recent research suggests that Southerners are more inclined than Northerners to react aggressively if insulted, perhaps because they have historically placed a high value on personal honor. One study shows that homicides associated with a personal

grievance are four times more common in Southern states than in Midwestern ones. To be sure, experts differ sharply on the basic question of whether the Jonesboro incident was an isolated, if deeply tragic, aberration – a contradiction to the welcome decline in national homicide rates – or part of a worrisome new pattern or trend.



An Arkansas state policeman stretches out to calculate the trajectory and distance of the bullets fired by the two youths. Experts have called attention to the easy availability of guns. (AP)

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Ronald Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said it represents an ominous new incursion of high-powered weapons into the sanctuary of the schoolyard. "The incident is a continuing wake-up call

for every school to put together and develop strategies to make school safer," he said. The Jonesboro deaths bring to 201 the number of fatal school shootings since his group began counting in 1992. "The thing that is different about the [recent deaths] is the increase in multiple shootings and the increase in firepower," he said.

After years of rising violence by juveniles, the recent trend has been a sharp drop in such crime. Youth homicide arrests fell 30 percent – from 3,102 to 2,172 – between 1994 and 1996, according to Justice Department reports.

"There is a very special quality of fear that occurs when havens of safety can be penetrated in this kind of arbitrary and very frightening fashion," added Zimring. "And we don't want to reconstruct our social institutions to have metal screens in every seventh grade."

A University of California, Irvine, researcher in juvenile justice said the spate of recent shootings jars the nation because they are so rare. And as such, said Mike Males, the tragedies demand "perspective" by policy makers and the general public.

"Public schools are the safest places from murder in our society," said Males, an author and doctoral candidate. "Los Angeles Unified [School District] has something like 600,000 students, and there hasn't been a homicide since 1995."

"That is remarkable, that you could have a half million people in one community and not have a homicide for three years... So you can understand why this is a national event. It is shocking."

Experts called attention to many factors that may have played a role in the Jonesboro killings. But the point they nearly all agreed on was the availability of guns. "I don't think kids are more evil than they were a few decades ago," said Dr. John May, assistant medical director of the Washington, D.C., jail. "It's just that they have more lethal means available to them."

Federal research bears that out. In each year since 1988, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 80 percent of homicide victims age 15 to 19 were killed with a firearm. That figure rose to 90 percent in 1994.

A 1996 CDC survey found that while 1 out of 24 students reported carrying a firearm, that figure rose to 1 in 12 in 1995.

In the old days, said Stephens of the safe school program, kids would walk away from a fight with a few bruises. "Now it's a body count."

The National Rifle Association had no comment on new calls for tighter gun laws, said its public affairs director Bill Powers. "There is a time and place for that sort of political discussion," Powers said. "But right now, in the traumatic aftermath of that event, the only reasonable response is sorrow and sympathy and concern."

Beyond what some experts believe is excessive availability of handguns and other firearms is American society's evident romance with using the weapons to resolve disputes and express anger. "We live in a culture of violence," said Leonard Eron, a psychologist at the Institute for Social Research in Michigan who has studied the effect of violent entertainment on behavior.

"There's so much violence on TV and in the media; children are aware of it. They get to believe that the way you solve problems is by beating up on others."

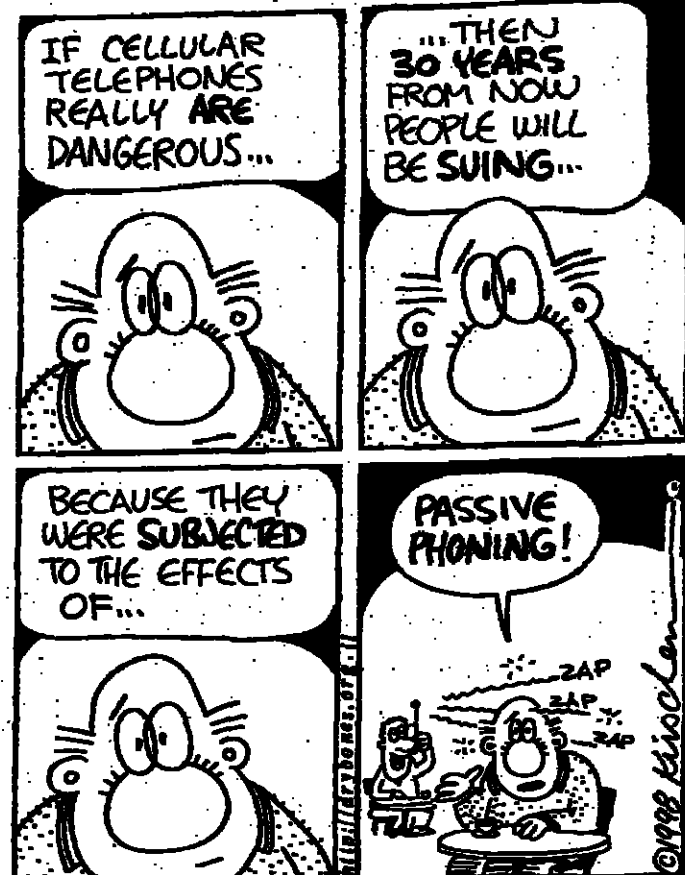
Eron and co-workers have been studying more than 800 people since 1980, when the subjects were 8 years old. Over the decades, the researchers have found that, compared to boys who watched rather mild shows on TV, boys who watched violent programs were more likely as adults to be aggressive, to be arrested for drunken driving and felonies, for instance.

Some social scientists emphasized the complex interaction between biology and family environment in fostering violent youth behavior. Donald Lynam, a University of Kentucky psychologist, has studied what he calls "fledgling psychopathy." Children with the syndrome, he said, exhibit the grandiosity and callousness that can be such a deadly combination in adult men. It appears to arise in kids who have both serious hyperactivity and the recognized psychiatric diagnosis known as conduct disorder, which is signified by fighting, cruelty, truancy.

Other researchers say a new category may be needed to encompass events like that in Jonesboro. "When we see this kind of detached violent behavior that is very planned and very purposeful, usually we have to go beyond any mere situational factors that might have brought on the reaction," said Reid Meloy, a forensic psychologist associated with the University of California, San Diego.

A similar view was voiced by the principal of the Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, where the shootings occurred. "I think we need to take a look at our society as a whole," Karen Currier said. "We need to look at how children are being fostered and raised." (Los Angeles Times)

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER LAY CUSHMAN



Israel Gottiesdiner submits to the scissors wielded by singing partner Benny Rosenbaum, right, and Meni Pe'er, as Yigal Shilon and Yigal Bashan look on.

Out to lunch

Former "caterer" Bessie F. Springson, who prepared banquets for the likes of David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir, is still contributing her culinary skills, as a volunteer, to several organizations. But this week she celebrated her 90th birthday by staying out of the kitchen.

Springson and her husband, Max, who came here from South Africa in 1949, invited a few close friends to lunch at the capital's King David Hotel. Among them were Sue Lerner, who hails from the US, Lily Silver who divides her time between Canada and Israel, and Chana Sheink, a sabra who spent most of her life in Australia and returned to her native Jerusalem 10 years ago.

The Springsons are looking forward to another round of "united nations" festivities in October, for their 60th wedding anniversary.

ISRAEL'S fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, left his sickbed for the inauguration of Habimah's simultaneous English translation service. He could hardly do otherwise, since he authored *Habushan Hasfaradi* ("The Sephardi Orchard"), the musical play chosen for the launch. The spirited ovation given the play by diplomats from 34 countries, who comprised a large segment of the capacity audience, must have been balm for the ego, if not the respiratory tract.

Brazilian ambassador Pedro Paulo Assumpcao was enchanted by the music and the familiarity of the Ladino lyrics, but no less by the way a complex subject was handled for mass consumption. Canadian ambassador David Berger told Navon that he had actually understood some 50% of the text without having to check the English on the screen; and the South African ambassador's wife, Maatchien Land, an amateur singer with a professional voice, declared she would learn the songs.

Navon himself, recovering from a bad cold, engaged in lively conversation with the show's star, Ya'acov Cohen, who plays three roles, and posed with the beautiful Galit Giat, who looks better on stage than she does on TV.

IT was almost Breakfast at Tiffany's this week, when businessman Yochai Amiel and jewelry designer Chani Regev, whose Amirel company has the local franchise for Tiffany and Hermes, hosted some influential Jerusalemites at the opening of their new outlet at the Jerusalem Hilton. Unlike their three-year-old flagship store in Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir, the new venture isn't yet set up for gourmet offerings, so Amiel and Regev had to entertain their guests in the hotel dining room.

Although Leah Rabin is known to be among Tiffany's clients in Tel

Aviv, Amiel, wearing a \$200 tie designed for Tiffany by Paloma Picasso, refused to confirm or deny it; discretion, he explained, is part of Tiffany's policy worldwide. He had no qualms, however, about revealing that the parent company in New York is patronized by Elizabeth Taylor and Bill Clinton. Amiel showed off the Tiffany American Garden dinner set, a replica of the one guests get served on at the White House.

Amiel said he had opened the Jerusalem branch despite the fall-off in tourism, because so many of his clients live there and travel to Tel Aviv to make their purchases. Another incentive: many wealthy Jordanians come to visit relatives in eastern Jerusalem – and Jordan has no Tiffany's.

Businesswoman and socialite Michal Isaacs tried on the most expensive item in the Jerusalem store – a NIS 350,000 Paloma Picasso gold mesh necklace with diamond clasp. Together with its matching bracelet and earrings it looked perfect with her black silk faille suit. The lady looked like a million dollars, even though the jewelry she was wearing was worth just a million shekels.

VIVACIOUS final-year high-school student Linor Abegail from Netanya was crowned Miss Israel this week, and will compete in the upcoming Miss Universe contest. On Sunday, the country's Arab Beauty Queen will be selected at a gala presentation at the Haifa Auditorium.

This is the 10th consecutive year the Arab community has allowed itself to appraise the beauties in its midst. This year over 300 young women aged 16-19 registered for the contest, which has been narrowed down to 14 finalists.

Abegail said she "never really expected to win." Sunday's winner won't get all the perks awaiting Abegail, but she will win a car and a one-year modeling contract. The runner-up will get NIS 2,000.

THE singing came naturally when the big names of Israel's entertainment industry got together at Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel to throw a 50th birthday party for Israel Gottiesdiner, who represents half of the veteran singing duo Tzemed Re'im. Among the 300 guests was his long-time partner Benny Rosenbaum, along with Dudu Topaz and Roni Chen; Yael and Yigal Shilon; and Mickey and Yigal Bashan. Also there were Karmi and Meni Pe'er; Zahava and Yigal Shilon; Tova and Dudu Fisher; Oshik Levy; and Hofni Cohen. The highlight of the event was the shearing of Gottiesdiner who, 20 years ago, pledged to divest himself of his mighty mustache once every decade. His friends were only too happy to help, leaving just a smidgen of upper-lip decoration.

BRULIK

by DOSH



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Slips produced by lingerie manufacturers (8)
- 5 Contrive to allow a guy time (6)
- 9 Feel bias of some sort? Quite likely (5)
- 10 Hardy associate (6)
- 12 Regards discipline as a personal problem (3-6)
- 13 Roused a bird (5)
- 14 Resign from choice, decidedly fed-up (4)
- 16 A writer will get credit (7)
- 19 Given direction, coloured and made economies (7)
- 21 The matelots boasted their superiority (4)
- 24 Rosie's willowy form (5)

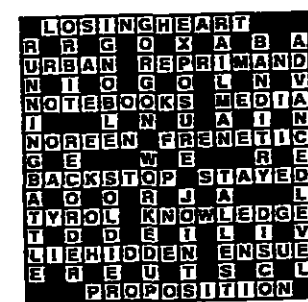
DOWN

- 25 A person must be patient using such transport (9)
- 27 Procured some meat in Batman's city (6)
- 28 Out-of-reach item when there's very little money (8)
- 29 The way to call for a tie-up (6)
- 30 Beaten by one deed inside another (8)
- 1 Strike organised by catering staff (6)
- 2 Speaks out, but nothing counts (6)
- 3 Rather wet? One's among the majority! (6)
- 4 Let out – repeatedly let out (7)

6 Top to bottom, an unexpected calamity (9)

- 7 Publicises tour for down-to-earth travellers (3-5)
- 8 Blows up – general's orders (8)
- 11 Some Asian nation's old coinage (4)
- 15 Insert can include a host (9)
- 17 Provided only a glass – no alternative (2,4,2)
- 18 Get up late (8)
- 20 Treat softwood (4)
- 21 Cole – not the merry old king, a doll fellow (7)
- 22 Register silent perplexity (6)
- 23 Came together to find greed destroying a great number at first (8)
- 26 Came down on a man for being flexible (5)

SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Cable, 4 Stitch, 9 Notable, 10 Nosey, 11 Lull, 12 Epilate, 13 Eer, 14 Tarn, 16 Lied, 18 Ate, 20 Betaine, 21 Opel, 24 Doris, 25 Elderly, 28 Tossed, 27 Tread.
DOWN: 1 Candle, 2 Hotel, 3 Elba, 5 Tangible, 6 Testate, 7 Hoyden, 8 Sever, 12 Encircle, 15 Attires, 17 Credit, 18 Asset, 19 Played, 22 Parse, 23 Adit.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Purify (5)
- 4 Plague (5)
- 10 Feathers (7)
- 11 Cuban dance (5)
- 12 Reigned (5)
- 13 Furtiveness (7)
- 15 Always (4)
- 17 Twenty (5)
- 18 Harden (5)
- 22 Footwear (4)
- 25 Throb (7)
- 27 Ease off (5)
- 29 Watchful (5)
- 30 Cock (7)
- 31 Tale (5)
- 32 Money-lending (5)

DOWN

- 2 Normal (5)
- 3 More impressive (7)
- 5 Concur (5)
- 6 Type of rosebush (7)
- 7 Aside (5)
- 8 Stop (5)
- 9 Secret hoard (5)
- 14 Threesome (4)
- 16 Underwear (4)
- 18 Gather together (7)
- 20 Anxious (7)
- 21 Utter (5)
- 23 Core (5)
- 24 Additional (5)
- 26 Change (5)
- 28 Subsequently (5)

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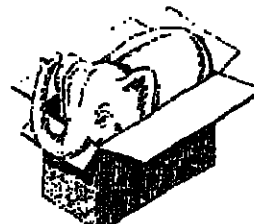
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Courses

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MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS	Apr. 21	Apr. 20
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HIGH-TECH SALES AND MARKETING	Apr. 21	Apr. 20
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (6 courses)	Apr. 27	Apr. 16
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (6 courses)	Oct. 5	May 28
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	June 4	Apr. 27
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	June 4	Apr. 27
CERTIFIED NOVELL ADMINISTRATOR	Feb. 24	Apr. 24
"A++" PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (including CNA)	Mar. 1	Apr. 29
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT (Using Director)	Mar. 1	Apr. 29
JAVA, VISUAL J++ Programmers	N/A	Mar. 22
JAVA, VISUAL J++ Non Programmers	N/A	June 21
C/C++ PROGRAMMING (Morning Session)	N/A	Mar. 16
C/C++ PROGRAMMING (Evening Session)	Mar. 31	May 4
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in brief

"I was scared at our first practice and then I was scared our first exhibition game, our first regular game, our first road trip," he said. "But I think I have that all out of the way now."

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Inside

Final Four coaches make debut
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'Boro present Gazza
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Blatter, Platini to make FIFA announcement

PARIS (Reuters) - Michel Platini and Sepp Blatter will hold a joint press conference in Paris on Monday.

A statement yesterday said: "The press conference will deal with the election to FIFA's presidency". It did not give any further details.

There have been persistent rumours that Platini, the 1998 World Cup organizing committee co-president, might support the FIFA General Secretary in any bid for the presidency of world soccer's ruling body.

Platini said earlier this month he would remain independent in the election campaign.



AMBITION ALMOST ACHIEVED - Marcelo Rios hopes to take over as the new world No. 1 next week.

Sanchez reaches Lipton semis

KEY BISCAYNE (Reuters) - Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, somewhat lost in the shuffle of teen-aged phenoms who seem to have taken over the WTA Tour, stormed into the semifinals of the Lipton Championships on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old eighth seed had her way with another Tour veteran on a blustery night, crushing listless third-seeded Czech Jana Novotna 6-1 in just 53 minutes in a quarter-final clash.

Sanchez, rebounding from the worst season of her career, is off to a blistering start this year, with only one match loss while picking up her first title in 20 months at Sydney.

In the semifinals, Sanchez will face 16-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova, who picked off

her third consecutive top 10 player by ousting second-ranked Lindsay Davenport 6-4 2-6 6-2 earlier on Wednesday.

Kournikova dispatched fourth-ranked Monica Seles and No. 9 Conchita Martinez in her two previous matches.

On the men's side, rising star Marcelo Rios of Chile, the third seed, moved a step closer to the world No. 1 ranking by advancing to the semifinals with a victory over Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in an aborted match.

Rios seized control midway through the first set and was leading 6-2 2-0 when the 24th-ranked Enqvist retired due to tendinitis of the right wrist.

The often ill-tempered Chilean can seize the top ranking long held by Pete Sampras by winning the tournament.

"Everyone that plays the Tour, everyone that does something, wants to be the best in the world," Rios said after his ninth consecutive match win.

"If you're a soccer player, you want to be the best in the world, or if you're a tennis player," Rios earned a semifinal meeting with Briton Tim Henman, who this week has snapped out of a three-month slump during which he lost in the first round of five of his last six tournaments.

Henman grabbed a final four slot by bouncing 10th-seeded Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-2 6-4.

Replacement not yet found for Star Sports

By ORI LEWIS

Confusion continues to reign in the darkness that fell on the screens of cricket, rugby, and golf lovers last week when STAR Sports was taken off our screens.

According to an official at ESPN, which owns STAR Sports, negotiations are ongoing with the local cable TV operators to make an alternative sports channel available to viewers here.

Ronni Faust, director of corporate communications at ESPN's New York base, says she is optimistic a deal can be reached with Israel's cable operators - Arutzei Zahav, Matav, and Tevel - so that a new channel can be put on the air.

"I cannot say how long it might take, but I am optimistic a deal can be reached," Faust said in a telephone interview from New York.

However, Gustavo Treiber, head of the Israel Cable TV Operators Association (ICTA) denied knowledge of any talks. "No negotiations are currently taking place for a replacement for ESPN STAR Sports," he said last night.

Faust explained that ESPN-STAR Sports can no longer be made available in Israel because of complicated broadcast rights constraints. "The channel can only be viewed in countries where the broadcast rights have been cleared. Rights are negotiated for on a sport-by-sport, territory-by-territory basis," she said.

While the signal was previously available and free to air in Israel, the Star Sports Indian beam off the AsiaSat1 satellite (whose footprint spills over into the eastern

Mediterranean), became encrypted on March 17, as the company moved over to digital technology allowing superior sound and picture quality.

All this is of little interest to Israeli sports fans, who have had what has until now felt like a God-given right to watch their favorite sports - something they could not do here for decades before the advent of cable TV.

Indeed, as far as the other channels available off AsiaSat1 are concerned, it is certain that before long they, too, will all become encrypted.

"STAR TV operates a production broadcast and subscription business. In time most of its channels will be encrypted, as will most other 'good' channels in Asia and Europe," said a source close to the STAR Sports channel in Singapore.

"Only by balancing and maximizing revenues from the sale of ads, air time, and subscription fees can we generate enough cash to purchase the best events, series and movies. I can confirm that some of the other STAR channels carried by ICTA will encrypt this year," the source continued.

The source said that Israeli cable operators have been able to carry \$6 million - \$8m. worth of STAR TV programming free of charge each year.

Treiber explained that there is no connection between the encryption of a TV signal and the issue of viewing rights, and that the encryption of other STAR channels might not lead to their being banned from Israeli homes.

See STAR, Page 22

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Marathoners take over Tel Aviv this morning

By HEATHER CHAIT

An extra dose of tolerance will be demanded of north Tel Aviv drivers today as runners in the 18th half-marathon hog their city's roads.

Even though the course this year is outside the downtown area, the 21.1 kilometer race, which begins and

ends at the Hadar Yosef stadium, is bound to elicit some irate motorists.

For approximately three hours the race will affect the following roads: Shitrit, Pinhas Rosen, Sheshet Hayamin, Abba Hillel, Bialik, Hahalach, Steinman, Kosovsky, Bnei Dan, Ussishkin, Geshet Ben Eliezer, Sderot Rokah, Ibn Gvirol, Shai Agnon, Levy Eshkol and Geshet Namir.

Two and a half thousand runners have registered for the half-marathon and the 6km competitive race.

The course record holder, Kenya's Kipering Philemon Muto, is back to defend his title. His time in 1995 was one hour, two minutes, 23 seconds.

The main challenger is Patrick Ndayisenga from Burundi who finished 18th out of 400 entries in last week's world cross-country championships in Marrakesh, Morocco. His best time is 1:01:23.

Other runners of note are Melese Feyisa (1:01:00) from Ethiopia and Moroccan Hassan Belkher (1:04:26).

National marathon champion Nili Avramski will be up against Kore Alemu from Ethiopia in the women's race.

Prize money of \$750 will be awarded to a foreign winner with an Israeli winner receiving NIS 1,500.

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PA mum on bomb factories in Gaza

By MARGOT DUKOVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian intelligence sources in Gaza refused to confirm or deny reports last night that seven bomb factories run by Hamas were uncovered last week in Gaza.

The Reuters news agency quoted a high-ranking Palestinian security official as saying that Palestinian Police and Preventive Security Service found over 100 hand grenades, armor-piercing missiles and large quantities of explosives in the factories.

He claimed this was the largest amount of weapons the PA has found in Gaza and that police were still investigating.

The official also claimed that police arrested 10 Hamas activists. However, a Palestinian intelligence official said last night that the intelligence apparatus is the only force that deals with such issues — not the police or the Preventive Security Service.

Hamas leader in Gaza Dr. Abdul Khatib denied the report.

In Nabulus, the PA uncovered a cache of kilograms of explosives. A Palestinian military court sentenced two Hamas members in Nabulus to 15 years of hard labor for possessing explosives used in last year's suicide bombings which killed 11 people in Jerusalem.

Asked about the reported discovery of the explosives factories in Gaza, the prime minister's communications adviser David Bar-Ilan said these things usually are dreamed up at very appropriate moments, implying that US envoy Dennis Ross's presence here may be the reason for this disclosure, which has not been confirmed by the Israeli authorities.

"This only proves the need for cooperation between the two security establishments."

Jay Bushinsky and Reuters contributed to this report.

102-year-old immigrant to arrive from Brooklyn

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Belle Goldstein, 102, arrives in Israel tomorrow as an immigrant.

Goldstein, a Brooklyn native, is thought to be the oldest immigrant from North America, said Danny Ben-Zion, the Jewish Agency emissary in New York.

She also is the embodiment of all the Zionist congresses since the 1939 Geneva Congress, and served as president of Amit (Mizrahi Women) from 1942-47.

Goldstein has visited Israel at least 40 times, has been to virtually all the Zionist congresses since the 1939 Geneva Congress, and served as president of Amit (Mizrahi Women) from 1942-47. Goldstein will be joining her daughter, Malka Goldfeld, who made aliya in 1989 and lives in Kfar Gidon, near Afula.

"She's tried to convince her mother to move to Israel for the last five years," Tal said.

As Tal recalled it, when Goldfeld, 73, first approached him last November, "I thought the aliya was for her," he said. "She said, 'No, it's my mother.'"

Goldstein is not the oldest person to immigrate here, however; there are two who arrived from the former Soviet Union at the age of 111.

PM to Ross: PA must end terror



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right) and US envoy Dennis Ross meet on Friday in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

Cohen: Israel's acceptance of 425 an important step forward

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's proposal to withdraw the IDF from southern Lebanon on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425 is "an important step forward" and one that the US is studying, US Secretary of Defense William Cohen said here Friday.

The US stands "solidly behind" the UN resolution, Cohen said.

The issue was discussed at length during an hour-long meeting between the two at the Pentagon, as well as during Mordechai's subsequent discussion with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who also told Mordechai the US is giving the idea serious thought.

Mordechai stated that he has asked the US to give the idea its "political support," but that does not entail the US having to commit even one soldier to the cause.

He said he asked the US, if the proposal pans out, to provide equipment and training for the Lebanese Army so that it can safeguard the border area.

One of Mordechai's goals in meeting with Cohen was to seek the US's agreement to raise the proposal with Syria and convince Damascus that Israel isn't attempting to bypass it, an Israeli official said.

Mordechai asserted that rather than harming efforts to renew negotiations with Syria, arranging a withdrawal from southern Lebanon "can help by creating a new atmosphere and trust to assure stability in the region."

The government's coordinator for Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, participated in Mordechai's meetings here.

Cohen also announced that he concurs with Mordechai that "there is a need for Israel to acquire" a third battery of Arrow missiles, which are now in the testing phase.

"We will cooperate as best we can to see that that occurs," Cohen said afterward, apparently signalling his



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pose for the camera before their meeting Friday in Washington. (Reuters)

intent to request additional congressional funding.

"Israel has determined that in light of the growing missile proliferation in the region that it would need three batteries to protect much

Beilin: Hizbullah won't attack Israel after pullout, Page 2

of its population," Cohen said. "We have been very supportive as far as providing research and development funds. We intend to continue providing that kind of support so it will enable Israel to acquire the third battery."

He said the Arrow program helps the US as well, noting that "any

time we have a cooperative agreement such as this, it is mutually beneficial."

Cohen told reporters he intends to visit Israel in the coming weeks. He was scheduled to make his first visit as defense secretary during the winter, but it was postponed due to the developing crisis with Iraq.

Mordechai was in Washington for just a few hours between stays in Miami and New York. He met early in the day with assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs Martin Indyk, primarily to discuss the peace process.

According to Mordechai, Indyk told him that "pressure is not in our lexicon."

Mordechai said that he will meet with visiting American envoy Dennis Ross tonight shortly after he returns to Israel.

He said he did not ask Albright for the US to refrain from publicizing

its plan for breaking the stalemate in negotiations. He also said he did not raise a specific percentage of land from which Israel is prepared to withdraw, but implied that Albright did offer the US's expectations for the next redeployment.

"The trip accomplished one thing: There's an understanding of our needs and there is a dialogue," Mordechai said outside the State Department. "To my great delight, there's no confrontation. Even if there are disagreements or a different way of looking at things, the issues are being discussed, both here and in Israel, and all efforts will be made ... to assist the process and close the gaps."

Mordechai said he is confident that neither side is interested in friction in their bilateral relations.

"I never sensed any sign of a crisis," he said.

By JAY BUSHINSKY, MARGOT DUKOVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and news agencies

US peace envoy Dennis Ross's meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night focused mainly on the need for "concrete and verifiable steps" by the Palestinians to eliminate terrorism, a senior government aide said.

The territorial issue did not come up in the larger forum, which included their respective advisers.

"Most of the time was spent discussing reciprocity," said Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan.

"The main obstacle to continuation [of the peace process] has not been the Palestinians' desire for territory, but the possibility of further terrorism," said Bar-Ilan, who assumed the territorial issue will be discussed in detail at today's meeting between Netanyahu and Ross. The two had also met on Friday.

"Israel cannot give anything up unless there are concrete and verifiable steps" by the Palestinian Authority "to extricate the terrorist infrastructure that exists within its domain," said Bar-Ilan.

The redeployment plan developed by the State Department on the eve of Ross's mission reportedly favors having Israel relinquish 13.1 percent of Area C. This exceeds the government's consensus adopted last Sunday, according to which no more than 9% can be given up.

"We're not ready to accept a 13.1% withdrawal, because it endangers Israel's security," Bar-Ilan told Reuters.

It was not clear whether Ross actually presented the plan to Netanyahu during their first two meetings or whether he is withholding it until PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's position is determined. The PA would prefer at least 15% of the area under discussion.

Senior officials interpreted State Department references to the effect that the plan is being "refined" in Jerusalem and Gaza as meaning it is being "changed."

Ross met with Arafat on Friday night in Ramallah and discussed American ideas, including a 13.1% redeployment, Palestinian officials said.

Ross met again last night with Arafat in Gaza, where officials said the two were to discuss US demands regarding settlement activity as well as other issues.

Arriving in Gaza yesterday, Arafat told reporters he expects Israel to implement the signed accords, adding that he had not agreed to any US proposals.

Participating in Friday's meeting were PA negotiator Saeb Erekat and

Mahmoud Abbas. While Erekat said "some ideas had been presented," he maintained that Ross did not offer any new initiatives.

PLO Executive member Suleiman Najib said, "We want to implement what has already been agreed upon, which includes the return of 90% of the Palestinian land."

PA Minister of Higher Education Hanan Ashrawi said the Palestinians demand "cessation of settlement activity" and would not agree to any changes or amendments of the signed accords.

Meanwhile, Arafat's political adviser, Nabil Amer, charged that "any US initiative must contain a timetable of the redeployment stages" and demanded the US stand by its commitment.

Shortly before the three-hour Arafat-Ross meeting on Friday, the Palestinian cabinet rejected Israel's proposal for land configuration (the so-called "quality" in exchange for a smaller withdrawal (the so-called "quantity") and declared the Palestinians would demand a three-phase withdrawal.

Arafat was quoted as saying that he expects both "quantity" and "quality."

Other reports said Palestinian officials hinted they may accept a 13% withdrawal from the West Bank on condition the areas handed over are from Area C and they receive assurances from the US of a third-phase withdrawal.

One official said that "if the American ideas include guarantees that Israel will implement a third redeployment and there is a halt to settlement activities, then there is a tendency within the Palestinian leadership to approve the idea."

Another Palestinian official claimed that the ideas raised by the US had been discussed between US President Bill Clinton and Jordan's King Hussein in Washington earlier in the month. The official said, "We were informed that Clinton told Hussein that if there is agreement on the US ideas, the pullback and security measures must be concluded in 12 weeks."

The same official said the PA had received assurances from the US that a third redeployment would take place and that a US-Palestinian committee would be set up to discuss its timing and scope.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani is to meet with Arafat in Gaza this afternoon. Third Way MKs are to join Kahalani in the meeting, which is also expected to address criminal matters, such as car thefts.

Egypt's official media said yesterday that Ross would visit Cairo tomorrow for talks with Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on the initiative.

Court multiplies hospital's rent 73 times

By JUDY SIEGEL and HAIM SHAPIRO

Uncertainty hit Jerusalem's Talbich Psychiatric Hospital last week, following a court ruling increasing its rent paid to the Capuchin Order of monks from NIS 22,000 to \$448,000 a year.

The decision was handed down by the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court's rental tribunal after litigation had dragged on for four years.

The hospital, built on 5.5 dunams (1.4 acres) of a 7.5 dunam plot in one of the choicest real estate locations in the capital, was used by the British during the Mandate.

After 1948, it was taken over by the government, which paid rent to the Capuchin owners, but the state turned over management of the hospital to the Kupat Holim Clalit health fund.

The monks, represented by Jerusalem attorney Yohanan Altbauer, insisted that the rent had been only a token fee and did not represent the actual worth of the property.

The Health Ministry, which has until now paid the NIS 22,000 annual rent, said that according to an agreement the state reached with the health fund, Clalit is now responsible for paying the full cost

of renting the property.

"The state's position is that the formal rental agreement between the state and the monks' order should be terminated," a ministry statement said.

However, Clalit officials said that, according to their interpretation of the 1995 agreement, the fund would be responsible for the rental charges and other maintenance costs for the hospital only when psychiatric services are transferred by the state to the health funds.

This was supposed to have occurred in June 1995, but the changeover has been delayed indefinitely because the health funds refuse to provide mental health services unless the government increases their subsidies.

Dr. Corolla Ghinea, the medical director of the hospital, expressed concern about its future. "Treating mentally ill patients is not profitable," she said. "I don't know how such a rent charge can be paid."

The hospital — which treats thousands of patients a year in 39 inpatient beds, 12 outpatient clinic beds, and 10 emergency room beds — has frequently been threatened with closure, since knocking it down and replacing it with luxury housing would be very profitable.

Institute counters terrorists on the Internet

By ANIEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense sources have expressed satisfaction with the establishment of an Internet site on counterterrorism, saying it would help offset the propaganda war being waged by Hizbullah and other anti-Israel terror groups.

The new site is the fruit of the

independently funded International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism. It can be found at www.ict.org.il.

"This is the first time that anyone in Israel has put up a site on the Internet which can serve as an answer to Hizbullah and Hamas propaganda," a defense source said.

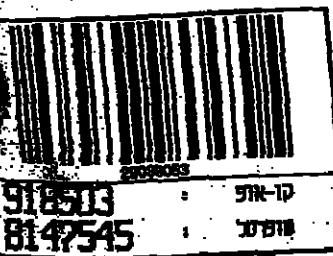
"We expect this to be the leading site in counterterrorism available on the Internet," said Boaz Ganor, director-general of the Herzliya-based institute.

According to Ganor, the site will have the most comprehensive concentration of information on international terrorist groups and is aimed at academics, researchers,

decision makers and journalists. But he stressed that anyone can access it, free of charge.

Besides academic papers, Ganor said the site will have some unique features, such as a daily terror bulletin, and will be updated with breaking news.

See INTERNET, Page 2



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NEWS

in brief

Consuls-general in US to confer

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur is to leave for New York today, where he will convene a meeting of Israeli consuls-general based in the United States.

The conference is to be attended by Ambassador Elihu Ben-Elissar, leaders of AIPAC, and other representatives of the US Jewish community. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is to address the conclave on US-Israeli relations.

Jay Bushinsky

Rio Jews to protest consulate closing

The Foreign Ministry's decision to close its consulate in Rio de Janeiro will be the subject of an unprecedented protest by the local Jewish community, whose representatives are due to take up the issue with officials here this week.

An advisory transmitted to Jerusalem by the embassy in Brasilia indicated Brazilian Jewry deplores the prospective closure as discriminatory, in view of the fact that consulates elsewhere, including Toronto and Sydney, are being kept open. Community leaders said they were "shocked, offended, and hurt" by the intention to close the Rio consulate. Jay Bushinsky

Report: Blair may sleep in Gaza

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair is actively considering spending a night in Gaza to mark his night in Jerusalem when he visits Israel next month to mark the 50th anniversary of the state.

A report in the London-based *Guardian* newspaper said the proposed overnight stay in Gaza would represent "an unprecedented gesture of British support for an independent Palestinian state."

The heavy symbolism of such an act would be compounded by the fact that Blair will be representing the European Union, of which Britain holds the current presidency.

A spokesperson for Blair described the report as speculation, but refused to rule out the possibility that Blair might stay overnight in Gaza — the first national leader to spend a night in Palestinian-controlled territory.

The report is thought to have been based on an inspired, but "deniable," leak that was

designed to test Israeli reactions.

It clearly indicates the preference of the Foreign Office and, perhaps, of Downing Street itself, but it is considered unlikely that Britain will press the issue if it encounters strong Israeli opposition.

PLO representative in London Afif Safieh told the *Guardian*: "We highly appreciate the symbolic and political significance of this visit," which, he said, "underlines the fact that the former British mandated territory of Palestine now has two political entities."

The British government is still smarting over the diplomatic debacle caused by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit to Har Homa, which prompted Prime Minister Netanyahu to cancel a dinner with him earlier this month.

British officials deny that the incident has caused any fundamental or lasting damage to the relationship between Britain and Israel, but they have hinted that Blair's visit, which starts on April 19, is designed — in

part, at least — to heal the rift that has been caused by Cook.

Meanwhile, the aftershock of Cook's visit is still being felt in London, where the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the community's representative body, appears to have followed Netanyahu's lead and withdrawn a dinner invitation to Cook.

The board announced late last week it was postponing its annual fund-raising dinner, scheduled for May, at which Cook was to have been guest of honor, for fear it would provoke a confrontation.

Community leaders said the dinner — planned to mark the 50th anniversary — had been postponed because it clashed with the G7 meeting of industrialized states, which Britain is hosting and they insisted on snub was intended.

However, board president Eldred Tabachnik told the *Jewish Chronicle* on Friday that "considering the strength of feeling in the community, we did not think we should have him at our dinner."

Hopefully, we will be able to ask him later, when things have cooled down."

Board chief executive Neville Nagler confirmed that the Har Homa episode contributed to the postponement: "Clearly it was a consideration," he said. "It would have made his presence very awkward."

In a related development, Tabachnik said he and a delegation from the board had had "full and frank discussions" with Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett when they called on him to express the community's "deep disquiet" over Cook's "misjudged visit."

After the meeting, Tabachnik said "we found it disquieting that Israel seems to receive so little support in Europe," adding that while a positive contribution from the EU was welcome, "it is clear that the United States has to have the primary role in moving the peace process forward."

Fatchett told the delegation that Britain was playing a "moderating role" in relation to other views in the EU.



Point, counterpoint

Peace Now protesters in front of the Prime Minister's Office (left) on Friday demand Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accept the US proposal on the second redeployment, while nearby, right-wing demonstrators (right) call for a halt to the Oslo process. (Brian Hender)



Six Palestinian marchers wounded by troops

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Six Palestinian marchers, including two members of the PLO executive committee, protesting land confiscation at Asirat al-Kabaliya village, near the settlement of Yitzhar, were wounded yesterday in violent clashes with IDF troops and border policemen.

The IDF Spokesman said scores of demonstrators were asked by the IDF and Border Police to leave the area and were shown an order declaring the area a closed military zone. The Palestinians ignored the order and troops were forced to disperse them with tear gas and rubber bullets, the spokesman said. Palestinian sources said several hundred men, women, and children marched to the top of a hill

between the village and the settlement to protest land confiscation. On the hilltop they were asked by troops to leave the area and when they refused to disperse they claimed soldiers opened fire.

Tayseer Khaled and Abdel Rahim Malouh, members of the PLO executive committee, were wounded by rubber bullets. Khaled, who was shot behind the ear, was taken to Rafadiya Hospital where he was reported in satisfactory condition. Malouh was hit in the shoulder, treated and later released.

Khaled told reporters the march was a peaceful protest at the site where settlers had uprooted olive trees. He said the Palestinians were surprised to encounter such a large IDF presence there, but stressed there was no necessity to open fire.

[Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu's forces shot at us all, but this criminal act will not prevent us from struggling against the occupation in order to return Palestinian land and replant our trees in the land destroyed by settlers," Khaled said.

Among the four other Palestinians wounded was Iyad Safadi, a PA official responsible for national institutions in Nablus, who reportedly suffered a fractured jaw.

Meanwhile the IDF is beefing up its presence throughout Judea, Samaria, and Gaza in preparation for Land Day. The IDF Spokesman said additional troops have been added to units operating in the area and have been ordered to disperse any gatherings that may endanger Israeli citizens or IDF security

forces. The spokesman said the IDF has asked the Palestinian Police to prevent violent clashes from breaking out between Palestinians and Israeli security forces.

The spokesman said soldiers have received revised regulations on dispersing rioters and opening fire. Troops have been ordered not to interfere unless their lives or those of civilians are endangered.

Meanwhile, Palestinians preparing for Land Day tomorrow have arranged for demonstrations and protest marches to take place throughout the West Bank and Gaza, and for stores there to close from noon. The Palestinian Authority has not issued any orders calling on Palestinians to refrain from violence while commemorating Land Day.

3 killed in weekend road accidents

Three people were killed and five were seriously injured in traffic accidents over the weekend.

One person was killed and three were injured — one seriously — last night in a head-on collision between two cars near Kibbutz Ein Horesh.

Hershik Konkovsky, 84, of Kiryat Ono, died on Friday morning, shortly after being hit by a Dan bus as he crossed at a crosswalk. The bus driver was detained for questioning.

Liad Lazar, 20, of Haifa, died Friday night in a car accident at the Elayim junction. Two cars collided after one of the drivers ran a stop sign at the junction, which is undergoing renovations.

On Friday night in Tel Aviv, a car swerved into a pole under the Aluf Sadeh bridge on the Gohar Road. Eight people in the car were seriously injured.

A six-year-old girl was seriously injured yesterday afternoon when she was hit by a car while crossing a road near Karmiel. A Magen David Adom ambulance took her to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Early yesterday morning, an 18-year-old was seriously injured in a collision between a truck and a car in Ashdod. The car's driver apparently lost control of the vehicle and swerved into the truck. (Iim)

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On the first anniversary of the passing of

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Sixth President of the State of Israel

a state memorial service will be held at Mt. Herzl, Jerusalem, in the Leaders of the Nation section, in the presence of the President, Prime Minister, Ministers and Knesset Members on Monday, April 6, 1998 (10 Nisan 5758) at 5:00 p.m.

The public is requested to arrive no later than 2:45 p.m.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

HARRY SALBER ז"ל

A founder of Kibbutz Ma'ayan Baruch.

The funeral took place on Friday,
March 27, 1998 at the kibbutz.

The family, Kibbutz Ma'ayan Baruch

To Liat and David and their family

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your father

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HARRY TORCZYNER

Founder, patron, and great friend.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of our beloved

JUDITH DAGAN

Née Berliner

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Monday, March 30, 1998, at 1 p.m.
at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery

She is mourned by:

Her daughter, Tzila Papageorgiou-Dagan and her husband
Her brother, Menachem Berliner and family

Her grandchildren Daniel and Gideon Etra
Alexander and Elena Papageorgiou

And all family members.

Shiva will be held at the home of the deceased:
Rehov Fishman-Maimon 7, Tel Aviv.

Beilin: Hizbullah will not attack Israel after pullout

Hizbullah will not attack the northern border if Israel withdraws from Lebanon, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) said yesterday.

"If the Lebanese Army deploys to the international border, Hizbullah will not carry out its activities in that area... this is certainly a message that has been passed along," Beilin said when asked whether he had received any message from Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

Beilin made his comments on Channel 2's *Meet the Press* talk show.

A Hizbullah official, who refused to be identified, responded to Beilin's comments by denying Hizbullah had passed on any message to Israel, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported.

"Hizbullah has not assigned any quarter to convey any message to the Israeli enemy... The issue of continuing or stopping the Islamic Resistance operations... will remain concealed," the official was reported as saying.

Beilin stressed that he had not received any direct message from Nasrallah, but rather had reached his understanding of Hizbullah's intentions based on meetings with third parties who had met with him.

Meanwhile, Iran joined Syria yesterday in opposing an offer to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon in return for security guarantees. Syria has opposed the offer and is insisting on unconditional Israeli withdrawals from the Golan Heights.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi called the Israeli offer "a new Zionist plot aimed at splitting the states of the region."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa, who met with Kharrazi yesterday, called the offer a "trick."

Ataollah Mohajerani, Iran's government spokesman, however, noted that if Israel did withdraw from southern Lebanon, it would end Hizbullah's drive to force the IDF from the country. He did not, however, endorse the Israeli offer to withdraw.

Mohajerani's comments were carried yesterday by the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper. (AP)

INTERNET

Continued from Page 1

"It is alive and dynamic," Ganor said.

He said information and analysis of international terrorist incidents would be posted when such incidents occur. For the moment, the site will contain data on terror groups, statistics on attacks and links between terror and criminal organizations. It will also have a searchable database on terrorist attacks worldwide.

The data is being assembled from various sources, including the US State Department, Ganor said the institute plans to have

both Hebrew and Arabic translations of parts of its English-language site in the near future.

"One of the triggers for opening this site is an examination of what is happening on the Internet. Terrorist organizations are sprouting like mushrooms after the rain. When you look for counterterrorism, you find very few," Ganor said.

Ganor said the institute plans to open a "counterterrorism forum" where questions can be asked regarding terrorism and counterterrorism.

"But we will retain the ability to screen questions, to keep out queries on things like how to prepare a car bomb," Ganor said.

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State seeking more Ben-Ari documents

By GALIT LIPIKS BECK

State prosecutors have asked Tel Aviv District Court to lift the ban on documents found in the offices of Jerusalem attorney Shmuel Kimhi, former lawyer to Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly Gregory Lemmer), who pleaded guilty last week to numerous fraud charges. The court is to hear the request tomorrow.

Kimhi's lawyer, Moshe Aloni, objects to lifting the ban on the grounds of lawyer-client confidentiality. Kimhi served as Ben-Ari's attorney until the businessman from the former Soviet Union was arrested

last year.

Shortly afterward, Kimhi also was arrested on suspicion that he was involved in crimes with his client. Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court freed Kimhi on bail and barred him from leaving the country for six months.

Last Sunday the Jerusalem District Court accepted 13 guilty pleas from Ben-Ari, who confessed to fraud, forgery, and bribery charges in a plea bargain. Ben-Ari confessed to defrauding Russian banks and politicians, forging signatures, and defrauding the supervisor of banks. Under the deal he is to receive a six-year prison sentence and pay a fine of NIS 5 million.

Council heads protest recycling rules

By LIAT COLLINS

Regulations the Knesset Interior Committee passed last week to increase recycling have raised the ire of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, which could keep them from being put into practice.

ULAI head Adi Eldar, who is also mayor of Karmiel, said, "The regulations aren't worth the paper they are printed on unless criteria are established, including financial compensation to the local authorities. We'd support recycling which

is economically worthwhile, but we should be told where we can get the money for recycling that is not economically viable."

The regulations themselves are somewhat recycled, having been passed a first time in July. Progress on the implementation was held up following opposition from various bodies.

Under the regulations local authorities must act to gradually reduce the amount of waste by sending more of it for recycling, so that by December 1998 at least 10% will be recycled; by

December 31, 2000, at least 15%; and by January 1, 2008, at least 25%.

Roni Even-Danan, in charge of recycling at the Environment Ministry, said this clause would not be used as an out for reluctant authorities. "Our surveys show that recycling is more worthwhile. The authorities themselves don't want to transport the waste to landfills," she said.

She also noted that sanctions and fines, set down in the regulations, could be used against local authorities which do not comply.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY SHARONI

Percentage predicament

US envoy Dennis Ross's visit this week, an attempt to reach a decision on the ongoing debate around the percentage of the West Bank to be handed to the Palestinians in the next redeployment, dominated press reports and commentary this weekend.

Ross is going to explain, not to negotiate, writes *Ma'ariv's* Yitzhak Ben-Horin, who adds that Ross knows that he cannot afford to return to the US empty-handed. "The Americans are presenting the carrot without the stick, but they undoubtedly will not forsake the arena if faced with Israeli or Palestinian opposition."

In his article, "How much can you compromise over compromises," *Ha'aretz's* Danny Rubinstein speculates that Ross's agenda is to either reach a compromise or raise new ideas.

He raises another possibility, however. "The sad truth is that Washington knows that there is no prospect of reaching an agreement and that Ross has simply come to carry out the US involvement in the fading peace process and not to leave the stage to European diplomats."

Addressing the percentages issue and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comparison of one percent to the size of Tel Aviv, B. Michael, in *Yediot Aharonot* states that this is "another example of Bibi demagoguery."

He adds that if a couple of percentages are essential for the security of the state, "let's preserve only these critical (percentages) and return all the rest."

Hatzofeh's editorial questions what it believes to be a change in Netanyahu's approach to the percentage issue. It claims that instead of stating the Israeli stance unequivocally, Netanyahu is becoming more accepting of the US proposal.

The approach "points to light-mindedness which portends severe dangers to the political and security interests of the state of Israel."

Yediot's Uri Orbach provides what he thinks is a better example for the demonstration of the significance of one more or one less percent.

"In less than one percent,

Shimon Peres could have been today's prime minister," he writes.

Controversial meeting

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's statement to the press, in which he rejected reports that he planned to meet with members of the Shas faction, was further criticized by commentators.

Ha'aretz's editorial states that Barak was against a meeting with the entire faction but did not object to meeting individuals, among them Shas leader Aryeh Deri, who is currently on trial for fraud.

"The fixed limits that the Supreme Court president has set are unclear," the editorial says. It adds that the possibility of a meeting between the court president and a politician who is standing trial can jeopardize the principle of checks and balances critical in a democracy.

According to *Ma'ariv's* Sima Kadmon, the meeting between Barak and Deri was initiated by Meretz MK Dedi Zucker. She adds that Zucker has become obsessed with secular and haredi relations.

"Observing Zucker in the last year provokes the suspicion that he will finally repent. Now he has set a target to arrange a meeting between Barak and Deri as if it is his divine mission."

Jerusalem syndrome

"The Jews have dreamt of Jerusalem for 2000 years, now Jerusalem is dreaming of them," declares *Ma'ariv's* Efraim Sidon, referring to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's proposal to annex Mevaseret Zion, Tsur Hadassah, Beit Zayit, Beit Nakofa, Motza and Mevo Beit.

"We all know that the real consideration behind the Olmert plan is to get his hands on the property taxes of the deserting secular population."

Hagar Lahav in *Ha'aretz* states that the annexation will increase Jerusalem secular residents' electoral power and the number of taxpayers. The political influence of the haredim will decrease but the means that the municipality can provide them will increase.

As for the annexed towns, their quality of life will decrease.

According to *Yediot's* B.

Michael, "The Olmert plan will hasten Jerusalem's deterioration."

Arrest made in Koka murder

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The suspect arrested by Jerusalem police in the murder of Channel 1 technician Hezi Koka is a Palestinian Authority policeman who worked in Ramallah.

Suspect Khader Jum'a, 22, of Ramallah, was arrested late Thursday night in Liberty Bell Park and remanded by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday for 15 days.

Koka's body was found wearing only a shirt and undershirt on January 14 in his Pisgat Ze'ev apartment, having been stabbed several times.

Jum'a confessed to the crime and to having stolen Koka's car afterward. The car was returned by the Palestinian Police six days later, but Jum'a kept the cell phone that was in the car, which helped police trace his phone calls and eventually capture him.

Police said Jum'a earned about NIS 800 a month working for the Palestinian Police, and that robbery was the motive for the crime. He had met Koka in downtown Jerusalem and spent the night at his home.

Police said that when Jum'a asked for money in the morning, Koka refused, at which point Jum'a stabbed him, cut his throat, and escaped with his car.

Police said Jum'a is also suspected of the attempted murder in December of another man, whose car he stole and sold in Ramallah for NIS 2,000.

He was arrested trying to break into a car.

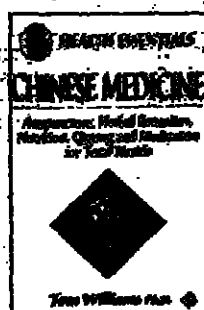


Murder suspect Khader Jum'a is brought to Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Thursday. (Brian Hendler)

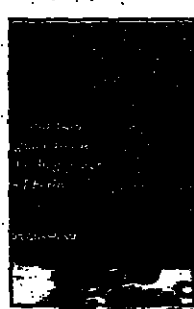
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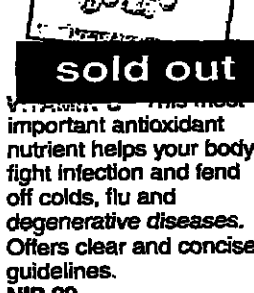
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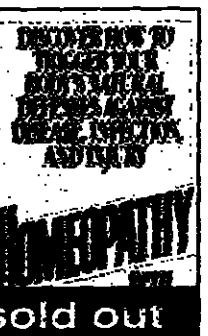
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Swiss banks agree to 'global resolution'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Facing the threat of sanctions from American public finance officials, the three major Swiss banks agreed Thursday in New York to negotiate a "global resolution" with claimants and the World Jewish Congress over Holocaust-era assets they hold.

The agreement, although hailed as a breakthrough, does not entail a settlement, nor does it affect any Swiss institution or industry other than the banks. Instead, it makes formal a mechanism by which the Swiss banks will sit together with the WJC and the lawyers suing the banks in an effort to hammer out a deal. Still undetermined is what assets the banks are liable for, and how much they are worth.

In a letter to the WJC, the chief executives of the three Swiss banks – Credit Suisse, Union Bank of Switzerland, and Swiss Bank Corporation – said the forensic audit being conducted under the auspices of former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker is the "cornerstone to a proper resolution." That audit is overseen by a joint WJC-Swiss panel.

But the banks also expressed support for "productive discussions" under the leadership of Undersecretary of State Stuart

Eizenstat, "relating to an honorable and moral conclusion through a global resolution of Holocaust-era issues directly related to our banks." Eizenstat has been trying to iron out an agreement between the banks, the WJC and the class-action lawyers since December.

The banks face three class-action suits in US federal court as well as demands from the WJC for "moral and material restitution."

A number of the class-action lawyers had encouraged the state finance officials to pursue sanctions against the banks, while publicly the WJC has said since December that it does not support sanctions.

On Thursday, Eizenstat hailed the agreement as "an important indication of the good faith of the three Swiss banks to reach a just, fair settlement." In New York, MK Avraham Hirschson called the agreement "a good step," but nothing more.

Previously, the three commercial banks had said they would compensate only Holocaust victims who could demonstrate claims to long-dormant accounts and had pledged to turn over any heirless assets from the Holocaust era.

However, they also are being pressed to admit liability for having received looted assets and profits from slave labor.

Marathon winner finishes race shoeless

By HEATHER CHAIT

When the going gets tough for a marathon champ, he just takes off his shoes – and continues to run.

Patrik Nadayisenga from Burundi was first among the over 2,000 runners in the Tel Aviv half-marathon on Friday, covering half the distance in his socks.

"My feet were sore," he said after the race. "It's hard running without shoes, but I had to find a solution."

Nadayisenga, who finished 18th in the world cross-country championships in Marrakech, clocked a relatively slow time of one hour, four minutes and 56 seconds, and launched the flood of complaints about the reliability of the 21.1 kilometer route.

"This course was longer by 100 meters," he said while his running partner and course record-holder Kipketer Philemon Muto from Kenya, who finished second in 1:05:06, put the error of judgment at one kilometer.

Hapoel race officials were quick to dismiss claims of any wrongdoing at the post-race press conference. Eytan Hefter, manager of the organizing committee, said the course had been measured by a professional team, including an engineer brought in from Germany. However, the officials were more humble when faced with accusations about inconsistencies in the kilometer markings, admitting to possible oversights.



Runners make their way through north Tel Aviv in the 21.1 km Tel Aviv Marathon on Friday.

(Ben Oseidry/Israel Sun)

The first Israeli runner home was Wodage Zevede in 1:07:08.

Another controversial incident centered on the second local runner, Assaf Birno, whose trophy was accidentally given to Avere Mucho, who finished two places behind Birno.

"This is not the first time I've had this kind of treatment," complained Birno to officials after the race.

Officials promised they would rectify the situation.

The women's race was won by Kore Alemu from Ethiopia in 1:16:31 with Israeli Ella Krinun second in 1:20:14 and Tatiana Prokopcuk from the Ukraine third in 1:21:23.

National marathon champion Nili Avramski placed fourth in 1:21:34.

Avramski, the voice of local athletes, called for the race to be returned to the heart of Tel Aviv, complaining of "boredom and a lack of support." While this year's north Tel Aviv route largely eliminated the traffic snarls of previous years, the route was marked by a total absence of supporters.

Chairman of the marathon Avraham Almog also was adamant that the race be returned to the downtown area.

"We hope and believe we can persuade the Tel Aviv mayor to move the race back," he said.

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Chernomyrdin to run for president

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW (AP) — Ousted Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin put an end to days of political prognosticating yesterday and said he is definitely running for president in 2000.

The announcement culminates a week of political skirmishing that began when President Boris Yeltsin suddenly fired Chernomyrdin and the rest of his cabinet, saying they were too concerned with politics to run the country well.

At the time, Yeltsin said he was freeing up the former premier to "prepare" for the presidential election. But neither he, nor Chernomyrdin, made clear whether that meant he would be a candidate.

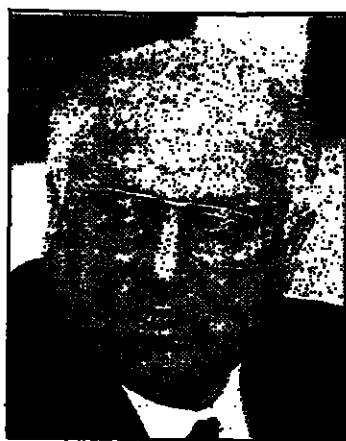
Chernomyrdin ended that speculation in excerpts of an interview broadcast yesterday on Russian Public Television.

"I have taken the decision to run for president," the former prime minister said.

During his six years as prime minister, Chernomyrdin, 59, was considered a hard but dependable No. 2 to the more mercurial Yeltsin.

There is little consensus on Chernomyrdin's chances as a candidate, with some considering him an accomplished political veteran while others think he has too little charisma with voters.

As former chairman of the natural gas monopoly Gazprom,



Viktor Chernomyrdin (AP)

Chernomyrdin has strong ties to industry. And in the last election, business leaders are credited with helping to turn the election in Yeltsin's favor.

But Chernomyrdin will have to compete with several strong candidates who are already in the race. Among them are ex-general Alexander Lebed, who came in third in 1996, and Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, who came in second. The populist mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, is also expected to run.

As for the current president, Yeltsin has made contradictory statements about his own plans in 2000. But his age, his questionable health and the Russian constitution all appear to rule out a third term.

Clinton marks apartheid at Soweto

By SONIA ROSS

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — After two days basking in the officialdom of a new South Africa, US President Bill Clinton ventured to the townships yesterday to hear from a new generation and remember the boy whose murder "shocked the world into a new recognition of the vast evil of apartheid."

The president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton planted a tree and laid flowers at the brown marble headstone memorializing Hector Peterson. The schoolboy was killed in the 1976 uprising that was widely considered the beginning of the movement that broke apartheid's back.

Children like Hector made today's new South Africa possible, Clinton said in a prayerful ceremony, because his was "a death that shocked the world into a new recognition of the vast evil of apartheid."

"Let this tree, the symbol of new life, recall their sacrifices but also embody — with every blooming — the bright and hopeful new day they gave so much to bring to South Africa," the president said.

Earlier, some three dozen waving schoolchildren put into song the message that Clinton heard from South Africans in the muddy roads, cinder block houses, and wooden shacks of the Thokoza and Soweto townships on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

"This burden is heavy. Come and help us to carry the burden."

If we work together, the burden will be light," the children sang in Zulu.

"I didn't want to leave the country without having the chance to have kind of an informal conversation with young people who are making the future of this country," Clinton told a



US President Bill Clinton greets children during a visit to the East Rand township of Thokoza, outside Johannesburg yesterday. (AP)

roundtable discussion at the R.P. Maphanzela Primary School.

The Clintons said they wanted to know how the United States could help South African youth. "It's very important that your generation maintain its optimism and energy and ... that the rest of us continue to make a construc-

tive contribution," the president said.

In Soweto, bloody stage for many of the black-freedom battles, enduring poverty, isolation, and need for infrastructure are testimony to the obstacles that South Africa faces — and will need help with — for years to

come.

"We still face greater challenges than those we have overcome for our country, our continent, and the entire world," President Nelson Mandela reminded Clinton during Friday night's state dinner. The previous day, Clinton addressed parlia-

ment.

The Soweto uprising began as a student demonstration against compulsory lessons in Afrikaans, the language of the white minority. The students were marching to a stadium when police opened fire. Hector was the first to fall.

6 Rwandans on trial for murder of UN monitors

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Six Rwandans appeared in a court charged with the 1997 killing of four UN human rights monitors and their driver, state-run radio reported yesterday.

Authorities blamed the six Hutu rebels for the killing of a Briton, a Cambodian, two Rwandans and a driver working for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The five were killed in a February 4, 1997 ambush near Cyangugu, 250 kilometers southwest of Kigali and on the border with Congo, where the rebels cross in and out of the country.

The killings severely restricted the movement of UN rights monitors and made it difficult for them to gather reports on human rights violations outside the capital, Kigali.

Thousands of people have been killed in rebel attacks and army reprisals since the return to Rwanda of more than one million Hutu refugees in November 1996.

Authorities say former Hutu soldiers and militiamen, responsible for the 1994 Hutu-organized genocide of 500,000 minority Tutsis, returned amid the refugees and are bent on destabilizing the country.

UN human rights spokesman Jose-Luis Ferrero said the six defendants were captured in Cyangugu between February 6 and February 15 last year. He had no other details.

The six — five men and a woman — had been charged with involvement in the killing, armed robbery and endangering state security.

On Friday, the court in Cyangugu agreed to adjourn the trial to April 16.

The adjournment was agreed upon after the judge learned that the accused had not attained legal counsel and had not been informed of their right to do so, Ferrero said.

The six were not asked to plead, he said.

Many Ukrainians wavering over poll

KIEV (AP) — A day before Ukraine's second post-Soviet parliamentary election, many voters were struggling to decide which of the dozens of political parties has the best chance of reversing the country's economic decline.

"I'll vote, but I don't know for whom," said Larisa Ichenko, 39, selling inexpensive imported toiletries at an outdoor market in the capital.

Thirty parties are vying for seats today in the Verkhovna Rada, the single-chamber parliament. Each vows to lift Ukraine out of the economic doldrums that have persisted since independence despite a measure of stability achieved in 1996 after a ravaging period of hyperinflation.

Communists are promising economic security and a union with former Soviet republics; moderate nationalists are offering economic security and closer ties with the West; centrists vow to provide economic security and create a strong Ukraine.

Nearly all the parties are heavily

critical of President Leonid Kuchma and his government, and are painting themselves as alternatives to the status quo. But few voters believe the campaign ads and speeches.

"There's nobody to vote for, they're all mafia," said Ichenko, selling shaving cream to supplement her 22 hryvna (\$3.11) salary at an idle electronics plant. "They've closed all the enterprises and gotten rich themselves, while we have to stand here at the bazaar."

Many voters suspect politicians running in the elections are seeking two things: a seat in the Rada provides immunity from prosecution and a chance to influence the presidential election due late in 1999.

Ichenko said she was considering voting for the Socialist Party, headed by Oleksandr Moroz, the influential speaker of the outgoing parliament. But she was far from certain — one of an estimated third of Ukraine's 38 million voters who remained undecided as the elections drew nearer.

Bomb explodes in English-language school in Amman

AMMAN (AP) — A bomb exploded in an Amman school yesterday, shattering windows but causing no injuries.

A senior government official said the bomb was "made with gunpowder" and investigators thought it was too primitive to be the work of hard-line Muslim fundamentalist groups.

The bomb exploded at 1:30 a.m. in the kindergarten of the Modern American School in the affluent suburb of Jebel Amman. It broke four windows and left black smoke marks on a stone wall.

"We believe that the aim of this explosion is propaganda," an investigator said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I have no idea who could have done this," the principal Tayseer Zamel said.

Zamel, a Jordanian businessman

who founded the private school in 1986, said there were no Americans or other foreigners among the 850 students. The school is one of a handful of English-language schools in Jordan, but its only American connection is that it follows the US curriculum.

US diplomats send their children to another school in Amman, the American School, which is funded by the US government.

There have been no recent attacks on American interests in Jordan. However, small, hard-line Islamic militant groups have been accused of bomb blasts directed against the government.

While mainstream opposition parties have vigorously criticized US policy in the Middle East, accusing Washington of bias in favor of Israel, they have not been implicated in acts of violence.

Thousands rally in support of secularism in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A day after the military and civilian government agreed to continue their fight against radical Islam, some 3,000 people gathered in the capital for a rally in support of the nation's secular system.

"Turkey is secular and will remain so," the demonstrators shouted.

Efforts to curb the influence of Islam have been a constant source of tension in the last two years, leading to a government

collapse and rumors of a military intervention. Rallies last year protesting the curtailing of religious education dwarfed yesterday's gathering.

The government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz came to power eight months ago after the staunchly secular military forced out his Islamic predecessor, Necmettin Erbakan. But Yilmaz's efforts to crack down on radical Islam were found insufficient by the military,

whose increasing pressure led to a public confrontation last week.

Tensions eased by Friday's National Security Council, which brought civilians together with the generals, but only after the Yilmaz government announced a set of new measures against those viewed as Islamic radicals. After the meeting, the military said it was pleased at the government's efforts, but urged quick implementation.

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Los Angeles hospital worker admits to 50 mercy killings

By JANE E. ALLEN

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A hospital worker who considered himself an "angel of death" has allegedly admitted to the mercy killings of up to 50 terminally ill patients.

State medical authorities have suspended the license of respiratory therapist Efrén Saldívar, who worked at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center in suburban Glendale, officials said Friday.

Saldívar has been fired and 43 others in his department suspended in the wake of the investigation as officials try to determine if the crimes actually occurred.

Saldívar was not in custody, no charges had been filed, and police said gathering evidence would be difficult.

"This investigation is very complex, as you can imagine," Glendale police Sgt. Rick Young said Friday. "It is requiring numerous interviews and numerous searches of hospital files. We have estimates of this investigation lasting for some time."

Bodies might be exhumed in the investigation, Young said.

The investigation came to light in documents filed by the state Respiratory Care Board.

Saldívar confessed to killings in a March 11 interview with Glendale police, said Cathleen McCoy, executive officer of the state respiratory board.

In a statement to the board, Officer William Currie described the interview in which Saldívar confessed. "Saldívar talked about his anger at seeing patients kept alive as opposed to the guilt he would feel at the failure of providing life-saving care," Currie said.

A polygraph examiner "asked Saldívar if he considered himself an angel of death. Saldívar replied yes."

Saldívar was jailed at that time but released two days later for lack of evidence pending further investigation, Young said at a news conference.

Saldívar could not be reached for comment Friday. His brother,



Los Angeles police officers walk towards the home of Efrén Saldívar on Friday, after earlier that day a California Respiratory Care Board official said Saldívar had confessed to the mercy killing of up to 50 patients.

Eddie, said the allegations could not be true.

"My brother's life is being torn apart by something someone said," he said. "My brother's life, he's demolished. There's no proof, no evidence. Show me the proof. Why isn't he arrested?"

Officials of the 450-bed, 1,800-employee hospital said the therapist was fired but did not identify him by name on advice of their attorney.

"This has been an all-out search for the truth for this hospital," Glendale Adventist spokesman Mark Newmyer said. "We do not know at this point if any wrongdo-

ing has been committed."

But detectives and hospital officials were investigating "the possibility that one or more employees may have assisted in hastening patient deaths," Newmyer said.

The hospital suspended three other respiratory therapists with pay at the urging of police, and then suspended the other 40 department staffers to restore confidence.

In his statement to the respiratory board, Currie said Saldívar killed with either lethal injections of Pavulon and succinylcholine chloride — both paralyzing medications — or by decreasing oxygen

to patients relying on a ventilator.

Saldívar told him that patients had to be unconscious, have a do-not-resuscitate order and "they had to look like they were ready to die," Currie said.

Saldívar told him he did not start the lethal injections until about three years after he joined Glendale Adventist.

"Saldívar said he felt encouraged by other therapists at GAMC who would sometimes give him room numbers of patients who needed lethal injections," Currie said.

The killings stopped in August 1997 after Saldívar suspected that

one of his co-workers saw morphine he was storing in his personal locker at work, Currie stated.

The hospital first heard rumors about hastened patient deaths in April 1997, Newmyer said. A two-month internal investigation revealed nothing suspicious.

The criminal investigation began after police received an anonymous phone call on March 3 from a person who said Saldívar "helped a patient die fast" on or about February 16, Currie said.

One colleague told a witness that Saldívar had a "magic syringe," Currie stated.

India's PM wins confidence vote

By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who compromised his party's Hindu nationalist ideology to come to power, yesterday won a crucial parliamentary vote of confidence by a narrow margin.

The last-minute support of a southern regional party with 12 lawmakers and the abstention of two smaller groups from northern India helped Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition scrape through the vote was 274-261.

The wafer thin majority indicated how vulnerable the government was to pulls and pushes by its supporters.

Already an ally has said its support can not be taken for granted and will be dependent on the functioning of the government.

The opposition Congress Party is preparing to make its bid to form the government should

Vajpayee ever falter.

A two-day debate preceded the voting. Representatives of more than three dozen parties represented in parliament spoke for or against Vajpayee's motion of confidence.

Vajpayee opened the debate on Friday with a plea to lawmakers from both the ruling coalition and opposition benches to help his government rescue India from instability and uncertainty.

Vajpayee is the fourth India prime minister in the last two years. Once ostracized for its aggressive Hindu nationalist ideology, his right-wing BJP has this time softened its stand on controversial issues to win wider support.

Elections held earlier this year resulted in a fractured verdict with no party strong enough to form the government without support. The BJP and its allies, the largest party in parliament were called to form the government.

IRA rival group says it killed ex-policeman

By SHAWN POUGHCHNIK

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — An IRA rival group opposed to peace talks claimed responsibility yesterday for shooting dead a retired policeman in front of his wife.

The outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, a maverick rival of the larger Irish Republican Army, said in a coded statement to the BBC in Belfast that it killed Cyril Stewart in Armagh, 65 kilometers southwest of Belfast.

Two gunmen ambushed Stewart, 52, as he and his wife, Joan, walked to their car outside the Safeway supermarket late Friday.

He was shot several times point-blank and died at the scene.

Stewart, a Protestant, had retired last year from the police after suffering a heart attack.

Such killings are designed to upset peace talks which are supposed to conclude by April 9 with a compromise agreement on governing this Protestant-dominated British province.

Michael McLaughlin, spokesman of the IRA-allied Sinn Féin party, said he regretted the killing. It was designed, he said, to make the search for agreement between the pro-British Protestant majority and Catholic nationalists more difficult.

Politicians linked with Northern Ireland's major pro-British paramilitary groups appealed for no retaliation.

David Ervine, who represents

the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force in the negotiations, said the INLA "is clearly hoping that by murdering an innocent Protestant man in so brutal a fashion, they will bring retaliation upon their own community."

"They want everything to unravel," said Ervine. "We shouldn't play their stupid game."

Ervine's Progressive Unionist Party is entitled to remain in the talks on condition that the UVF isn't implicated in violence. Both the UVF and the larger Ulster Defense Association are observing a 1994 cease-fire.

The Irish National Liberation Army opposed the current talks-and-truce strategy being pursued by the IRA and Sinn Féin. It triggered a wave of bloodshed December 27 when it assassinated the commander of Northern Ireland's most ruthless Protestant gang, the Loyalist Volunteers, which also opposes the cease-fires.

A dozen people, mostly Catholics, were killed in a spasm of violence that lasted until February 10 and handicapped the peace talks.

The British and Irish governments, which cosponsor the talks, were required to expel the Ulster Defense Association's representatives from the table for four weeks in punishment for the UDA violence.

They later expelled Sinn Féin for two weeks because of the IRA killings.

Queen stops at pub, brings home beer for hub

TOPSHAM, England (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II, steadily extending the frontiers of the modern monarchy, made her first official visit to a pub Friday.

The queen's only other known experience with this fundamentally British institution occurred in 1981, when her car got stuck in a snowdrift and she spent an unexpected night at a pub in Gloucestershire.

Friday's outing to the Bridge Inn in Devonshire was a well-planned part of the day's progress through

this part of southwest England.

Hundreds of people turned out at the pink 11th century building to welcome their sovereign.

The proprietors gave her a tour, brought the staff out to meet her and handed her a bottle of locally brewed ale.

"That is very kind," she replied when given the "101" ale, specially made to mark the 101 years Caroline Cheffers-Heard's family has run the inn.

She took some home to her husband in the trunk of her car.

Fergie lands bit part in TV series 'Friends'

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's duchess of York turned actress on Friday, appearing before the cameras to help record a London episode for the US television comedy, *Friends*.

The former Sarah Ferguson, ex-wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, was filmed alongside Matthew Perry and Matt Le Blanc, playing Chandler and Joey on a tourist trip to the British capital.

The city's *Evening Standard* newspaper reported that the story-

line has the duchess, known as Fergie, bump into the two as they visit Westminster Abbey.

"I am very pleased to be here. I was really excited about appearing on *Friends* and meeting the characters," it quoted Fergie as saying.

Le Blanc, in a Hawaiian shirt with backpack and camera, returned the compliment.

"It was the first time I have met her," Le Blanc told the newspaper. "The duchess is really, really nice."

Can the correct initials help you live longer?

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Maybe names really will hurt you. People with initials such as ACE or GOD are likely to live longer than those whose names spell out words like APE, DUD, RAT or PIG, a study suggests.

The study, conducted by researchers from the University of California at San Diego, looked at 27 years' worth of California death certificates.

People with monograms such as JOY or WOW had a better chance of living longer — and were less likely to commit suicide or die in an accident — than those with neutral or meaningless initials such as JAY or WLW, or those named, say,

BUM or UGH, said psychologist Nicholas Christenfeld.

He presented his findings on Friday at a meeting in New Orleans of the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

"The argument is that there's some psychological symbolic factor that can exert its impact cumulatively over the years. You get teased at school, wonder what your parents thought of you — maybe fate is out to get you — but at every stage it's a little tiny depressant to be called PIG, or a little tiny boost to your esteem to be called ACE or WOW," he said in an interview.

"All we can do is look at the

final outcome."

The findings do seem to support the idea that liking your name and liking yourself may be linked, and that parents should be sensitive when naming children, said Penelope Wasson Dralle, a professor in LSU Medical Center's psychiatry department.

"If people tend to look at your name and look up at you and laugh, you're sort of at a disadvantage," she said.

But, she warned, the study "really doesn't give us any cause and effects."

The study looked at the 5 million or so people who died in California from 1969 through 1997.

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'Titanic' success bodes ill for Hollywood

By KENNETH TURAN

Memo to the incensed gentleman who called a *Los Angeles Times* editor after the Golden Globe Awards were announced to express the hope that "now that *Titanic* is the best film of the year, you'll take that guy who didn't like it outside and shoot him."

For better or worse, I'm still here.

Yet even allowing for serious overestimation of the Golden Globes' importance, there can be no doubt that events are moving the caller's way. *Titanic* won a record-equalling 11 Oscars and is setting box-office records. Film critics, general opinion notwithstanding, are not intended to be applause meters. Just as restaurant critics don't send couples seeking that special anniversary meal straight to McDonald's on the "everybody goes there, it must be the best" theory, the overall mandate of critics must be to point out the existence and importance of other criteria for judgment besides popularity.

Yet as *Titanic* has turned itself into the top box-office attraction of all time, the first film to grasp the once unapproachable Grail of the \$1 billion worldwide gross, there can be no doubt that its success is a genuine sensation, one whose far-reaching consequences are fascinating to examine for quite specific reasons.

In a mass audience business, largely run by people with no instinctive sense of what a mass audience truly wants, all kinds of powerful people will be taking a variety of lessons from this unprecedented outpouring of money and support. What does the phenomenon of what one executive called "the best film ever made from the worst script ever written" mean for the future of Hollywood?

Well, it will likely solidify trends apparent in Hollywood and lead, unless we're lucky, to changes in the kinds of movies we'll be seeing in the future changes that all audiences will notice and not necessarily applaud.

The reasons for this bonanza are not difficult to discover, although some of the key factors involved are not the ones usually cited. For one thing, certain films succeed partly because the makers have been canny enough to recognize an audience predisposed to

embrace particular subject matter. That was what happened with the first *Batman* and, as filmmaker James Cameron noted when he talked about receiving and passing on this story like a baton, that was the case here.

From the moment it went down until today, the *Titanic* has never gone through a period in which the public was not fascinated by it to one degree or another. While Cameron's version of the *Titanic* tale is attracting paying customers in unprecedented numbers, that success paradoxically says at least as much about how poor a job Hollywood is doing in reaching the mass audience as it does about the skill of its creators.

For *Titanic*'s ability to attract a crowd also shows how desperate the mainstream audience — alienated by studio reliance on the kind of mindless violence that can be counted on to sell overseas — has become for anything even resembling old-fashioned entertainment. As Cameron himself said, "We thought there was a hunger for emotion, for character, for drama."

Deadened by exposure to non-stop trash and willing to confuse the on-screen chemistry of Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet with writing ability, audiences have been eager to embrace a film that, putting the best face on it, is a witless counterfeit of Hollywood's Golden Age, a compendium of clichés that add up to a reasonable facsimile of a film. What, then, does that audience appetite portend for the future of studio films?

One conclusion at least is inescapable: Despite the pious promises of self-deluded studio executives who insist that this film is not going to be the forerunner of a slew of \$200 million ventures, that's exactly what we're in for. Hollywood nature being what it is, ego-driven directors will feel it's an insult to their greatness to be denied what another director received. In an age when most studio executives act like guilty parents too timid and conflicted to discipline their wayward children, there's no force strong enough to stand in the way of rampant ego on the march.

If a fiasco like 1980's *Heaven's Gate* didn't ultimately curtail studio spending despite promises to the contrary, does anyone seriously think a success like *Titanic* is going to keep the lid on?

The problem with that megabud-



Though neither Kate Winslet nor Leonardo DiCaprio won an Oscar, their on-screen chemistry was a major factor in the record-breaking popularity of 'Titanic.'

get scenario is twofold. For one, although Cameron is not someone to be trusted anywhere near a word processor, he is a master of the physical side of filmmaking and one of the few people who can make effective use of \$200 million. What will happen when Cameron wannabes with considerable studio clout start turning out grotesquely bloated, *Postman*-type disasters on a regular basis is not a pleasant scenario to contemplate.

The other difficulty is that what Cameron does naturally — write lowest common denominator screenplays that descend to their audience — other writers have to be forced into. The more a

movie costs, the bigger its audience tent has to be, the more it has to appeal to every person on the planet if it's to have a hope of breaking even. So these movies ruthlessly bludgeon writers into dumbing down their scripts, removing any trace of intelligence that might put off even a single potential viewer.

Potentially more troublesome and destructive than any of this is what the embracing of *Titanic* by the public and the motion picture community says about the future of studio filmmaking as a whole.

What we're witnessing is the wholesale jettisoning of the notion of anything resembling a literate

script as a necessary part of the filmmaking process, a change in the very nature of film that is not going to be any less fatal for being largely unrecognized. Never in the past has a film with a script as lacking as *Titanic*'s been so universally (well, almost universally) acclaimed as the acme of the medium.

Think of any celebrated venture from the past, whether it's *All about Eve* (which shares *Titanic*'s Oscar record of 14 nominations), *The Godfather*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, E.T., even the genuinely clever *Star Wars* or *Jaws* with its marvelous Robert Shaw shark attack monologue. Audience pic-

tures all, and all of them had strong scripts at their core. They were written to be classics, not slavishly and ineptly copied from them.

But today's audiences, with their taste corrupted and denatured by round-the-clock exposure to bad TV and worse features, now have difficulty discerning a slick and derivative fake from the real thing. And if audiences can't tell the difference, you can be sure that studios are going to start thinking that time and effort put into memorable writing is a waste of resources best used elsewhere. Because if there is a hidden cause to what's surreptitiously happening all around us, it's the enormous advances made

recently in computer-generated visual effects.

As *Jurassic Park*, *The Last Word* and *Independence Day* proved with a vengeance, audiences tend not to notice feeble writing if they get their money's worth of astonishing sights.

Exasperated by my unyielding stance toward *Titanic*, a friend recently informed me that I "care too much about words." To that charge I'm forced to plead guilty. My fear, however, is not standing alone; it's that by the time more people wish they'd stood on the dock with me, it will be too late to make any difference.

(Los Angeles Times)

The line between optimism & fantasy

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

Micha Sheerit is known as a literary man, a lover of books and words. This becomes increasingly evident as one listens to the lyrics of *Masmerim Venotzot* ("Nails and Feathers"), Sheerit's first solo release (he was a founding member of the influential Friends of Natasha, which disbanded two

MASMERIM VENOTZOT

(Nails and Feathers)

Micha Sheerit

Red Arzi

★★★★

HA'OSEF

(The Collection)

Micky Gabriellov

Phonokol

★★★

years ago). Virtually every song

looks carefully at a situation, a

feeling, a moment in life, and pre-

sents it to the listener with subtle

intelligence.

The gorgeous "Inti omni" —

which one is hard-pressed to escape

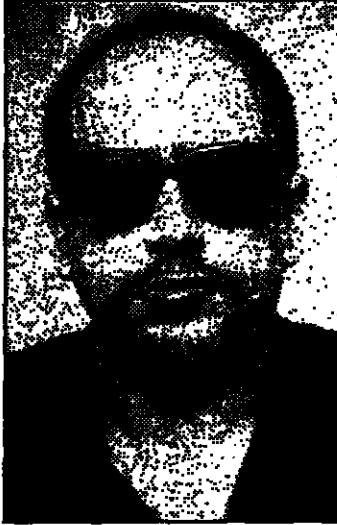
on the radio these days — is a good example: "They're closing the factory/ let's go home... it's economic, it's politics/ earth-shattering things/ but nothing to do with us."

Then there's "El Niño." Sheerit sings: "El Niño will come and close everything left open," walking that all-but invisible line between wild fantasies of supernatural salvation and slap-happy optimism. "Boats will set sail on clouds in the sky/ cars will drive underwater."

This track is also a good example of why calling *Masmerim Venotzot* a solo project is a bit misleading. Sheerit worked intensely on the recording with fellow rockers Bary Sakharoff and Yitzhar Ashdot, who played guitar and bass, respectively, on every song. Co-wrote all the music with him, co-produced the album. Nowhere are their singular talents felt more clearly than on "El Niño," where Sakharoff's characteristic guitar work and Ashdot's impressive ability to use computers in making a sound more human blend brilliantly with Sheerit's singing to create an atmosphere both surreal and immediate.

It's true that the vocals on *Masmerim Venotzot* fall into that category of singing that usually gets on my nerves: more spoken than sung. But in this case, Sheerit's delivery is a terrific foil to the pared-down yet deeply expressive musicianship.

This is not to say that the album is sheer perfection. There are a couple of songs which feel a bit superfluous, a moment or two where great strength is dragged



Micha Sheerit

down by some annoying weakness. But for the most part, *Masmerim Venotzot* is an excellent, astute example of what three really talented artists can do when guided by one man's intelligent vision.

MICKY GABRIELLOV has been a fixture on the music scene forever, it seems. He long ago composed the music to such ultra-classics as "Oof gozal" ("Fly Baby Bird") and "Ani ve'ata neshaneh et ha'olam" ("Me and You Will Change the World"). An accomplished player of the guitar, bass and various Turkish string instruments, he launched his solo singing career in 1990.

Ha'osef ("The Collection") is a

compilation of some of Gabriellov's best-loved songs, along with one written especially for this project, "Lev shavur" ("Broken Heart"). This track, like many of the others on the album, is heavily influenced by Gabriellov's Turkish background — indeed, pop lovers with a special fondness for Mediterranean sounds and sentiments should be very pleased with *Ha'osef*.

These reach their peak, perhaps, in the happy-go-lucky "Bayit vegitar" ("Home and a Guitar"). "I've got a home and a guitar... and I've got the sun and an ocean of friends/ I'm alive in order to live and I love life."

Interestingly, this paean to optimism is followed by "Ten lihiyot" ("Let Live"): "God in heaven/ look me in the eyes/ and tell me why people look for miracles and find none." This is one of the few songs to which Gabriellov wrote the lyrics as well — which may be the reason he seems to go a little deeper in his singing on the track.

The album closes with a lovely instrumental version of "Ani ve'ata neshaneh et ha'olam," on which Paraguayan musicians join Gabriellov in successfully reinterpreting a very well-known song. Gabriellov fans will thoroughly enjoy this compilation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: Who wrote the lyrics to the Micky Gabriellov chestnut "Turki Turki"?

A: Off-beat playwright Hanoch Levin.



By David Isaacson

The story of Billie Holiday's life is one of the saddest in pop culture.

Born in Baltimore somewhere between 1912 and 1915 to parents in their early teens, Holiday (real name Eleanor Fagan) was harshly fostered by relatives. At six, she was accused of causing her grandmother's death. At 10 she was raped. She became a child prostitute.

ULTIMATE

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A PORTRAIT OF

BILLIE HOLIDAY

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It was in a brothel that she first heard the music of Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong.

In 1933 Benny Goodman dragged the terrified girl into a recording studio to cut "Your Mother's Son-in-Law" and "Riffin' the Scotch."

Thereafter, in what is commonly regarded as her golden years, she enjoyed a fruitful partnership with the shrewd pianist and bandleader Teddy Wilson, and a number of affectionate years with sax great Lester Young.

In the 1930s she recorded loads of fine songs, though she didn't receive any royalties. On blues covers ("My Man"), pop tunes ("Pennies From Heaven") and her own compositions — many of which, like "God Bless the Child," later became standards — she sang with most of the big-name musicians. She could be seductive ("Night and Day"), sad ("Good Morning, Heartache") or, most often, bittersweet.

Toward the end of the '30s, she left Count Basie and joined Artie Shaw's all-white band. Though

Shaw was her lover, he did not balk at the appalling prejudice which she, as a black, suffered wherever the band went. So Holiday tried to make it on her own. Under the influence of a series of violent, manipulative men, she became dependent on heroin and alcohol. She spent time in prison on drug charges; her singing became erratic, and unfashionable. She died in 1959.

ALL 48 songs on the double-disc BNE collection *A Portrait of Billie Holiday*, in the label's *Gallerie* series, sound like they were recorded in the 1930s. (Typically for a cheap compilation, the sleeve notes fail to confirm even this basic information.) In those days, arrangements tended to be fast swingers à la Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden or Fats Waller.

Holiday sings against the beat, her phrasing is entirely her own and her small, captivating voice is truly haunting.

But all too often her conviction is betrayed by the big-band fashion of the time (to say nothing of the necessarily imperfect recording quality). While the singer invests "Trav'lin' All Alone" with the image of a solitary hobo propping up a bar, the band makes it sound like a cheerful ditty.

Buck Clayton, Holiday's friend and trumpeter who accompanied her both before and after the war, is a voice in the wilderness when he claims that her heyday was really during the postwar Verve years. *Ultimate Billie Holiday* bears him out.

The disc is one of a Verve series in which contemporary female singers choose their favorite 16 tracks by a classic female vocalist.

This selection (by Shirley Horn) spans the years 1945-1956, a period of more sophisticated arrangements. These, and the sensitivity of pianists like Milt Raskin and Oscar Peterson, gave Holiday the time and space to express herself.

On the 1945 Verve version of "Body and Soul," Holiday sings "My days have grown so lonely..." This new emphasis changes the tenor of both the lyric and the melody, to breathtaking effect. By contrast, from its brass intro, BNE's big-band "Body and Soul" is pretty rather than soulful. Of course even here, stressing "My days have grown so lonely..." she still sounds special.

Critics claimed that in the later years Holiday's vocal range narrowed, that her melancholic tone had become sleazy and soporific. This misses the point. Any number of singers have had bigger and technically better voices, but none could evoke an atmosphere like Lady Day.

Having grown from somewhat avant-garde pop singer to international jazz artist, she essentially transcended both categories. Sounding more like a sweet little girl than a diva, she had the character to convey the deepest emotions with the slightest nuance. For all the apparent melancholia of both her tone and the songs in her repertoire, she didn't make her own suffering explicit in her work. Rather, like Marilyn Monroe, she projected innocence and hope. It wasn't Holiday's vulnerability so much as her honesty in expressing it that made her great.

As Shirley Horn says on the liner notes to *Ultimate Billie Holiday*, "She just gave you so much heart and soul, good Lord!"

The role of the composer

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The art of composition has always been a peculiar one. How does one composer manage to write an impeccable symphony at the age of five while another cannot even write one normal scale or chord? What makes one work more exciting than another? How do composers actually compose? These are questions that have interested music lovers and musicologists alike for generations.

An upcoming symposium in Jerusalem seeks to provide some answers.

Sixteen noted composers from all over the world will gather for a unique opportunity entitled *The Art of Composition* — towards the 21st Century (today through

Thursday) at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy for Music and Dance.

There is no doubt that the role of the composer has significantly changed through the ages. Composers of our time still write, above all, for those who pay them to do so, but these benefactors have changed considerably. In the 17th and 18th centuries, composers knew exactly how much music they had to write and for what purpose. The successful ones, as well as those who were well connected, had positions in the various ducal courts of Europe. They were composers, music directors and performing musicians. Some even gave private lessons. In return, they received food and lodging for their efforts.

Today's composers perform very

rarely. There seems to be a definite distinction between the art forms of today and the genres of yesterday. The musicians play and the composer writes music and never the twain shall meet. Today's composers usually work as teachers in academies, conservatories and universities. They write music on commission and are paid for their efforts, but they do not have the so-called "luxury" of an 18th-century *kapellmeister*. They have to find these commissions themselves.

While contemporary music was the "in" thing in the 18th and 19th centuries, today's music is usually ghettoized in special series with a very limited audience. Our average concert-going public is not interested in what is new; they opt for legacies of the distant past. This no doubt immensely frustrates the

average composer.

While sociologists and musicologists can discuss the role of the composer within society ad infinitum, the process of composition itself is much more difficult to describe.

The upcoming composition symposium, initiated by renowned Israeli composer Mark Kopytman, will host composers from all over the world. Participants will examine not only what it takes to be a composer but also the musical technology of the day ("Aesthetics and Influences on Creative Process"), the new challenge for the future ("Recycling of Sounds and Styles"), and the curriculum ("Tradition and Innovation").

The symposium will be enhanced by six concerts, among them a few world premieres.

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Yeltsin should retire

Russians should be getting seriously worried about President Boris Yeltsin's ability to run their country. His recurring illnesses, occasional bouts of confusion, and cavalier attitude to his cabinet suggest it is time for him to retire gracefully and let the next generation of politicians come to the fore. Foreigners, too, should be worried by an ailing and erratic Russian president still clutching a nuclear briefcase.

Yeltsin's firing of his entire government last week was scarcely a totally rational act. Now his appointment of a virtually unknown young and inexperienced man as prime minister raises suspicions that the president is more interested in removing challenges to his authority than in running Russia. Even the considerably weakened parliament may be forced to raise a fuss over the naming of Sergei Kiriyenko as prime minister to replace the sacked Viktor Chernomyrdin, who says he will run for the presidency in 2000.

It is hard to disagree with Liberal leader Grigory Yavlinsky's fretful opinion that Yeltsin is playing a very dangerous game with the government of this huge and important country — and that the concentration of even more power in the hands of a tottering leader is extremely risky. Kiriyenko's main merit appears to be that he is so inexperienced that he can be easily controlled and manipulated by the wily Yeltsin. The president has also made such a habit of random firings that no minister any level can feel too secure about being in any job long enough to learn how to do it properly.

The only unwavering consistency Yeltsin displays is in his maneuvering to hang onto and increase his power — a sin that has cursed every Russian leader from the czars to Brezhnev. Mikhail Gorbachev was merely an exception

that proved the rule. Most neutral observers agreed that his last election campaign was a poll too far and that he can only diminish his former high reputation as a savior of Russia's fledgling democracy. The history books certainly will be far less kind to him than if he had quit at the end of his last term.

Yeltsin's unconventional behavior and the other public antics that once seemed endearing exuberance have become tiresome and embarrassing as his mental faculties seem to have diminished. His wit has turned to insults, his tuneless singing has turned to barking orders, his friends have been dumped for yes-men. There remains the horrifying possibility that he will again change his mind and run in the 2000 elections. His age then, 69, would be unremarkable for a politician if his health were in better shape. It is not, and it is unlikely to be.

The sight of Yeltsin inaudible, incoherent, or stumbling is becoming more rather than less common and he has been reported to lose track of events at international meetings. The latest incident was last week, when he mistakenly launched into a news conference before his scheduled talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac. He had to be reminded that meeting the press comes after, not before, a summit.

Serious government is badly needed in Russia, and it isn't getting it from Yeltsin any more. Despite all his power, he has little taste for day-to-day administration. Russia recorded some economic growth last year for the first time, but remains a social and economic shambles. Those who have jobs are lucky to get paid every month, while national health and education are dying of a thousand ailments. Yeltsin's latest game of cabinet musical chairs only means that the country will continue to stumble and bumble along with the man who runs it.

Aid versus trade

US Sen. Jesse Helms has described aid to Africa as "throwing American money down foreign rat holes" — a particularly unenlightened comment, considering how his country acquired an Afro-American community. It seems the richer the United States gets, the more mean-spirited some of its politicians become towards the world's unfortunate. The new congressional cry of "trade instead of aid" sounds in African ears like a call for new ways to exploit for northern profits the meager resources of the world's poorest countries.

South Africa is by far the most powerful and wealthy of the African states. President Bill Clinton has been visiting. Yet, tramping through the dusty townships of South Africa yesterday, Clinton was able to see how much needs to be done, and how much help that new democracy still needs.

Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's deputy presi-

dent and Nelson Mandela's heir apparent, is highly critical of the US Congress for its attempts to cut aid grants in favor of increasing trade. He made the point that Africa needs not either-or, but both aid and trade. Denmark gives as much aid to Africa — \$700 million — as does the United States, but Congress is resisting a request from Clinton for \$30 million more.

Clinton saw for himself what a little aid can mean in real lives, when taken away from the hot air of politics. When his wife visited a small housing project near Cape Town last year, there were 18 clambering houses on the site. An infusion of American funds has enabled the little settlement to grow to 104 houses today — most of them completed. A little aid, well used, goes a long way in Africa. The aim is not to pour it into rat holes, but to convert rat holes into decent places where people can begin to lead lives with some basic comfort and dignity.

An admirable sight, don't you think?



On pressuring Israel

DAVID WEINBERG

Now that Washington and Jerusalem have climbed down from the high trees they climbed in the battle over the second "further redeployment" (FRD), it's time to tally up the gains and losses.

* Paying for the Gulf conflict: To a great extent the pressure on Israel to sweeten its pullback offer to the Palestinians is a function of European and American need to make-up for, or "balance," their toughness on Saddam. Robin Cook's theatrical effrontery was aimed at audiences not in Jerusalem, but in Riyadh and Damascus. He meant to insult us for his own purposes — to find favor in Arab eyes. Washington still believes it didn't get its bases in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf conflict because of Netanyahu's stubbornness in the peace process.

* Washington and Israeli security: What ought Washington's role be in determining the parameters of Israeli security? Over the last month the US has come dangerously close to telling us what hills and valleys we can live without, and how much land we can afford to forgo. This is troublesome, because it sets an unhealthy precedent as we move closer to final status talks.

Never before has the US sought to second-guess Israeli security needs. It also violates an explicit commitment given last year by then-secretary Christopher and Martin Indyk to Israel regarding the FRD process. "A hallmark of US policy remains our commitment to work cooperatively to seek to meet the security needs that Israel identifies," wrote Christopher to Netanyahu two days after the Hebron agreement.

* Taking the pulse of US Jews: There's a big battle underway in determining where the "American Jewish community" is at in terms of the Netanyahu government and the peace process. The Clinton administration, for sure, is watching closely for signals from the community.

The Israel Policy Forum, a US group allied with the Labor Party, polled American Jews last year and found that 91 percent would "accept US government pressure on Israel if

that's what it takes to advance the peace process."

The American Jewish Committee's annual survey of American Jewish opinion, taken late last month and just released, found only 45 percent of US Jews supportive of such pressure on Netanyahu, with 52 percent opposed. (69 percent say Washington should pressure Arafat).

There's a whopping 50 percent difference between the two surveys! And a McLaughlin poll taken in January for the conservative Middle East Quarterly has a majority of 65 percent opposed to Clinton pressuring Netanyahu on "trading land for peace." Thus, it is possible that the administration is misreading the pulse of the Jewish community when thinking it can put the screws on Netanyahu with impunity. Can President Clinton, or presidential candidate Gore, afford to have more than half of American Jews angry at them?

* Backing Israel: Some analysts argue that the poll figures cited above are irrelevant, because it doesn't take much to bring the community back aboard in support of Israel. "Any one of three elements will quickly swing the Jewish public behind Israel," says Kenneth Jacobson, associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League, and one of American Jewry's most insightful, thoughtful leaders. "These elements are excessive pressure from Washington; Arab misdeeds or terrorism; and most importantly of all, an Israeli peace initiative."

"The latter in particular is important," Jacobson explains. "A sign of serious intent on the part of Netanyahu to advance the process with a defined plan is something we can all get behind."

Indeed, there were signs over the weekend that the proposal Netanyahu made to Dennis Ross turned the tables, and that US Jewish leadership will now rally behind it. Few American Jews or

Washington policy-makers could make sense of the big deal Netanyahu has made over the 4 percent difference between Albright's 13 percent FRD proposal and the 9 percent acceptable to the cabinet.

With a more concrete Israeli plan on the table, the diplomatic debate can be re-oriented, provided that the prime minister and the cabinet evince a continuing commitment to follow through.

* Final status ahead: One year from now, in March 1999, the Palestinian Authority will declare independence and be recognized immediately by almost every country in the world and the General Assembly of the United Nations, with the exception of Micronesia, Costa Rica and perhaps an abstention from the US.

Before this happens, the Netanyahu government's real priority ought to be reaching a strategic understanding with Washington on terms of a final status deal. It is silly now to expend ammunition in arguments about small percentages, and perhaps futile to argue against a more intrusive and forceful American role in the process.

Better to make Washington our partner in the process, and have it forcefully advance our interests with the Palestinians. This means quiet, intensive discussions with the president and secretary of state, in an atmosphere of complete frankness — not Israeli end-runs around the administration through Christian right-wingers or Congress.

It also requires a realization on the Clinton-Albright teams that the American Friends of Peace Now isn't going to help much in "delivering" the Likud PM nor swaying an Israeli public wary of Arafat, nor will they get very far through snide leaks to *The New York Times* about Netanyahu.

The time is ripe for the leadership in Jerusalem and Washington to open a new page and make a fresh attempt at a true diplomatic alliance.

The writer comments on current affairs.

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

The Palestinians' only hope

The visit of US envoy Dennis Ross to the Middle East and the talk about a new US peace drive seem to fall under the category of "too little, too late." It must be humiliating for a superpower to look so indecisive and keep publicly changing its mind.

The Clinton administration seems still to be deciding what its role in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations should be. Having witnessed the first and second Oslo Agreements and having the tremendous influence they possess in the entire world, many have expected them to be a lot more forthcoming. Perhaps the most disappointed party has been the Palestinians.

Knowing full well their own political, economic and military weakness vis-a-vis the Israelis, the Palestinians' only hope was that the US would intervene on behalf of the side of justice and support Palestinian rights. Counting on the special relations the US has with Israel and the historic US support for the rights of people to self-determination, Palestinians were hoping for concrete US involvement.

Watching and listening to US pronouncements, one gets the idea that they are juggling between their role as a superpower and co-sponsor of the peace accords, and their other role as a special ally to Israel. In its capacity as co-sponsor of a legal document the US seems to want to make sure that the accords are followed and implemented.

It is no wonder that Yasser Arafat keeps repeating the same phrase every time he talks to the press: "All we want is an honest and accurate implementation of what was agreed upon."

But politics has nothing to do with principles. The balance of power is against the Palestinians, and US organized political pressure is pro-Israel (though the US public is not). So after saying that they want to publicly announce a new initiative they are pressured by Israel not to

make such a plan public. The Israeli argument is that the US should not replace the direct talks between the parties. But the direct talks have produced absolutely no movement in the peace process and the co-sponsors are legally and morally obligated to intervene to make sure that agreements are honored.

The direct talks have produced absolutely no movement in the peace process and the co-sponsors must intervene

The Israelis keep pressing and, amazingly, the US seems to agree. They stop their plans and begin behind-the-scenes negotiations. All of a sudden the US "initiative" becomes US "ideas." And we have yet to find out if they will be made public and — more important — if the US will use its tremendous clout with Israel to produce results.

The problem with the Americans, however, is not only process but content. The Americans are allowing the Israelis to dictate the size of its pull-out of Palestinian territories. This is a clear contradiction of the Oslo Agreements, the Hebron Agreement (signed by the current Israeli government) and the commitments made by former secretary of state Warren Christopher to the Palestinians.

Israel has committed in binding legal documents to make three withdrawals from all Palestinian territories, with the exception of settlements, Jerusalem and military outposts. The three pullouts are to end in the middle of 1998. None have taken place.

For the first pullout the

Netanyahu government announced a pullout of a couple of percentage points. Since the territories under present Palestinian security control are no more than 3%, with settlements and military outposts a few more percentage points Palestinians expected that each of the three pullouts would be around 30%. They rejected the Israeli offer, and Israel made no pullout.

In September the Israelis cited the suicide bombings (whose perpetrators came from areas under Israeli military control) as the reason for a delay in implementing the second redeployment. Since then, Israel has announced its agreement to pull out from about 8% of Palestinian lands as its second redeployment (it seems to have forgotten about the first redeployment.) And Israel wants the third stage of redeployment to be postponed to the final status talks.

Again, the US seems to be forgoing its international role and its particular role as sponsor of a signed agreement. Press leaks indicate that the new ideas, if they are ever announced, will call on Israel to withdraw from merely 13% of Palestinian lands.

Last week I was asked by a US official if I thought the Palestinians will agree to this. I told this US official that I thought that only a package deal that doesn't contradict the signed agreements could possibly work.

The problem is that even a package deal in which Palestinians and Israelis are told "Take it or leave it" will not work, because the big question will remain: What will the US do when Israel rebels?

Past experience shows that the US will always bend under Israeli pressure. What is needed more than ever is for the US to say what it really means and to mean what it says.

The writer is director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem.

Modern pioneers

DANIEL BLOCH

As Israel celebrates its jubilee, many people ask themselves what happened to "beautiful Israel."

What happened to the famous pioneering spirit and values that brought about the creation of the State just 50 years ago? Where is that spirit of camaraderie, of sharing, where is that unique sense of direction, what happened to that courage andchutzpah that let us swim against the tide? Where are all those leaders who kindled the enthusiasm of the people and directed them to do the right and necessary thing at the appropriate time?

Somewhere between the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the Lebanon War of 1982, we lost that spirit and sense of direction, and since then we have been looking in vain for the leadership that will revive it.

We will surely not find that lost spirit in the commercialized celebrations planned for us by the scandal-ridden committee of the jubilee celebrations.

A new adaptation of *Haikva* for NIS 70,000 will certainly not be the answer.

There is one place where you may find the lost sense of pioneering in the hi-tech industry.

A quiet revolution has been taking place in the last few years in the electronics, telecommunication and software industries in Israel. They are growing rapidly and becoming world leaders in many fields. Many international analysts have dared Israel the "next Silicon Valley."

Last week I visited "Cebit 98" in Hannover, Germany. The

Israel's greatest natural resource is the Jewish brain

largest hi-tech trade exhibition in the world. Our small Israel was the seventh largest exhibitor, outside of the host country. But it was not just the numbers that made Israel's participation so exciting. It was the quality, the innovative spirit of the Israeli hi-tech industry, that made our participation a center of attraction.

The prestigious *Byte* magazine organizes a competition every year called "The Best Of Cebit." The *Byte* editors search for the most exciting, innovative and revolutionary products and technologies.

In the first round, they chose 100 items and labeled them "Must See." Fifteen of those were Israelis. At the next stage, three Israeli companies were among the finalists and of those three, one company, First Access of Haifa, won first prize.

You have surely never heard of First Access. The company did not even exist several months ago. A young man named Moshe Elgrasi had a bright idea about the ever-growing problem of computer security. He found the right venture capital fund that was ready to invest in his idea and within several months he had a company, a product, a marketing tool and great PR and potential for commercial success.

This is just one example. There are so many more. Have you heard of a company called Zoran? They are pioneers in the field of producing chips for new video technology of DVD, which will soon be the prevailing broadcasting and home entertainment technology. Their annual sales already exceed \$50 million.

Last year, Wizcom of Jerusalem was an unknown entity. At last year's Cebit, the company launched Quicktionary and sales have been skyrocketing ever since.

This hi-tech revolution is a result of several factors: The decline of the armaments industry released talents and resources into the civilian market; many Israeli scientists and engineers who worked at Silicon Valley R&D companies wanted to come home; and the massive immigration from the former Soviet Union brought a rich numbers of scientists, engineers and technicians.

All these factors, together with the wise policies of the Rabin government which allocated budgets to encourage these industries, came together to yield the wonderful fruits of success.

Israel's greatest natural resource is the Jewish brain. The hi-tech industry is now the true melting pot of modern Israel, mixing together people from all ethnic origins, newcomers and sabras, to a vibrant markets of ideas, innovations and entrepreneurship. Let us pray that politicians and the bureaucrats will not interfere and damage this important phenomenon. Our future place in the world depends on this.

The writer, who comments on current events, is an international media consultant to the Israel Export Institute.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE 'DOWN WITH US' SYNDROME

Sir, — The TV series *Tkuma*, celebrating half a century of the State of Israel, should be canceled, partly because of bias toward Palestinian and Israeli Arabs. Our citizens are paying taxes for this self-inflicted witch-brew.

What is behind all this stunts me. Is it nihilism? Masochism? Or is it the well-known Jewish disease, the "down-with-us" syndrome? Those responsible for this hedge-podge painted 50 years of solid black for all aspects of life here, not just the Jewish-Arab

imbroglio, without even a proverbial silver lining. Arab bestiality, lies, half-truths and nefarious aims regarding us, past and present, are ignored or glossed over.

I was shocked to hear, among other things, that 700,000 Arabs became refugees in 1948. Who is responsible for stating such a falsehood and thus aiding and abetting our mortal enemies? In the last census of the British Mandatory Government in 1946, the Arab population of all of Palestine was only 1,280,000, a figure that could even have been

inflated by the pro-Arab British (who haven't changed their orientation today, considering Foreign Secretary Cook's recent tour to pay homage to the Arabs at our expense).

Israel was left with 170,000 Arabs in 1949. As Samaria, Judea, eastern Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip were well-populated by Arabs, simple arithmetic gives the lie to 700,000 or even 600,000 refugees.

PROFESSOR R. KENNETH Rishon LeZion.

REVULSION

Sir, — Worlds are inadequate to express the revulsion, anger and outrage that every person of every persuasion feels at the vile and vicious antisemitic statement made by former IDF intelligence head Shlomo Gazit (March 8) "comparing the kippot worn by some IDF soldiers to the Nazi swastika worn on military uniforms" by German soldiers.

The kippa, for hundreds of years, has served as a symbol of

Jewish life and of Judaism generally. Who amongst us can ever forget the pictures of Jews wearing kippot murdered during the Holocaust or of soldiers in kippot standing in awe at the Western Wall at its liberation in 1967?

To equate a kippa with a swastika worn by Nazi soldiers hits a new low in obscenity even in our time where immorality and perversion are prevalent. Gazit's inane and patently

insincere "apology" to President Weizman and Chief Rabbi Lau came about only as a result of the firestorm that his words aroused in all sectors of the Israeli public. I submit that the appropriate response to this outrage is to strip Gazit of any rank in the IDF and to expunge his name from the rolls of the IDF.

HARRY LEVINSON Jerusalem, New York.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 29, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported a demonstration of some thousands of tenants protesting high rents, which was held in front of the Tel Aviv Municipality.

50 years ago: On March 29, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported more details on a battle which raged for over 30 hours, as an

indomitable unit of 250 Hagana men, returning from Gush Etzion and outnumbered 15 to one, beat off wave after wave of Arab attackers who blocked their passage some eight kilometers south of Bethlehem. The fighting ended when British Army officers negotiated a truce. The known Jewish casualties were 12 dead and 12 wounded against

125 casualties suffered by the Arabs.

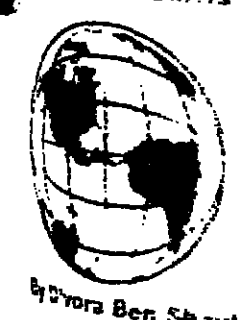
25 years ago: On March 29, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel would for the first time display abroad two of its most sophisticated missiles, Gabriel and Shafrir, at the International Air Show in Paris. Alexander Zvielli

Landman of cereal

IT'S THE AUCTIONS

Sudan: P

Earthly Concerns



by Yoram Ben-Shalom

Landmark sale of ceramics

AT THE AUCTIONS

Sotheby's Tel Aviv is launching a new set of spring sales in addition to its usual offerings of Israeli and international art and Judaica. The opening sale on April 13, will for the first time feature Israeli and international ceramics.

On offer are sculptural, decorative and functional items by Genia Berger, Jean David, Aharon Kahana, Marcel Janco and contemporary ceramics by Meir Moheban, Maud Friedland, Varda Yatom, Lydia Zavadski, Mark Yudell, Jean Mayer, Amnon Israeli, Israel Banki, Rina Kimche, Dalit Tayar, Mira Liebes, Talia Tokatly, David Morris and others.

Also in this sale are works by Jean Cocteau, Wilfredo Lam, Mane Katz and 18 leading British ceramicists, among them Takeshi Yasuda, Gabriele Koch and Rupert Spira, who prior to the sale will lecture on processes and trends in contemporary ceramics. Prices of lots mostly range from \$300-\$3,000, but the large amphorae by Spain's Claudi Casanovas run up to a top estimate of \$10,000.

ISRAELI AND international art at Sotheby's Tel Aviv to be sold on April 14 again ranges from the early '20s to the present. Notable are Reuven Rubin's superb *Girl With a Plant*, 1922-3, a work that helped launch the early Tel Aviv school (\$90,000-\$120,000); David Bomberg's *Pool of Hazeleah*, 1925 (\$60,000-\$80,000); and Ziona Tajar's *Ein Kerem*, 1927 (\$40,000-\$60,000).

The influence of Cezanne can be detected in Mordecai Ardon's *Still Life* (\$60,000-\$80,000) and in Arie Labin's 1925 *Bathers* (\$10,000-\$12,000). Yohanan Simon's 1943 *Kibbutz Gan Shmuel* has an estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000. Ardon's *Ascension of the Watchmaker*, 1978-9, has an estimate of \$80,000-\$100,000, while Avigdor Arikha's 1985 *Nude Before a Mirror* has a top estimate of \$80,000. An Arie Aroch is expected to bring at least \$50,000. Also in this sale are Levanon, Janco, Bergner, Bezem, Ticho, Mokady, Agam, Nikel, Tumarkin, Streichman, Kupferman, Lavie, Stematsky and many others. Top item is Chagall's *At the Circus*, \$300,000-\$400,000. Moise Kislak's *Cubist Nude*, 1918, has an estimate of \$80,000-\$120,000. A fine Lesser Ury Berlin oil, *Lady in a Cafe*, is estimated to go between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

The next day, April 15, at 3 and 5:30 p.m., Sotheby's will follow with its Judaica sale; details in our next column.

On May 11 Sotheby's will offer a variety of early objects, graphics and carpets made in the workshops of the original Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, which opened in Jerusalem in 1906. On May 12 Sotheby's will offer early Israeliana, travel books, maps, views of the Middle East and a

variety of Zionist and other memorabilia. Next day, Sotheby's will sell photography from the Holy Land, Palestine and Israel, ranging from studies by Bonfils to contemporary prints.

A CHAGALL also tops the list of Christie's Tel Aviv April 15 sale of 19th- and 20th-century art. *Les Souvenirs*, a late and rather tacky oil from 1971, also has an estimate of \$300,000-\$400,000. A Chagall gouache *Artist and Model* has a top estimate of \$180,000 and a late *Mother and Child* \$160,000. I don't yet have the catalog of this sale.

A SALE of Israeli and international art at Tiroche of Herzliya on March 21/22 saw a number of failures by famous names, notably that of an oil of a bleeding pear by Samuel Bak, overpriced at \$18,000-\$24,000; and an early Castel of a woman, for which a minimum of \$20,000 was expected. A poor Zaritzky from his Yehiam series didn't sell; nor did works by Lubin, Kadishman, Raffi Lavie, Lellouche, Tepler, Ziona Tajar and others, though ones by Tajar, Kadishman and another by Lellouche did achieve a sellable price. The most attractive canvas in the show, an interior with a figure by Lifane Klapisch, was knocked down at \$3,300, well below its lower estimate of \$5,000. A very well done *Mother and Child with a Still Life* by the late Bella Kadar made its estimate of \$5,000. So did a table-top still life by Yael Bergner. Many of the lots were *pickles* starting at just a few hundred dollars; it's not surprising that only 62 percent of the lots sold. Total for both sessions was \$162,600.

FILM POSTERS and memorabilia sold by Sotheby's London on March 18 saw only 58% of the lots sold, though good prices brought the sold by value figure up to a bit over 73%. Top price of £10,350 was paid for a German poster for Paramount's *Shanghai Express* starring Marlene Dietrich, 1932; while £6,900 was paid for a Swedish *King Kong* poster from 1933, both items going well over their rosiest estimates. A German lithograph poster for Chaplin's *The Kid* selected by this column, went for just £4,370. A handgun made for Mark Hamill in *The Empire Strikes Back*, 1980, topped its estimate at £3,220; a handgun for John Travolta's *Pulp Fiction* nearly doubled its estimate at £2,990.

A SIMPLY magnificent array of British marine paintings, models and even pond yachts, including the Simard Collection of Montague Dawson paintings, not to mention images and souvenirs from the *Titanic* sinking and the s.s. *Carpentia* rescue, are to be sold in nearly 500 lots at Sotheby's London on April 1. Some of the items are from the estate of Herbert J. Pitman, Third Officer on the *Titanic*. They include a silver cigarette case said to have been given this officer by the Goldberg family, fellow survivors in lifeboat no. 5. (£600-£800). Some of the Dawson esti-



An array of ceramics to be offered at Sotheby's Tel Aviv on April 13



Reuven Rubin: 'Girl with a Plant', oils, 1922/3 (\$90,000-\$120,000 at Sotheby's Tel Aviv)

mates run up to £80,000 while a bone model of a Royal Navy gun-ship of Nelson's day may go to £30,000.

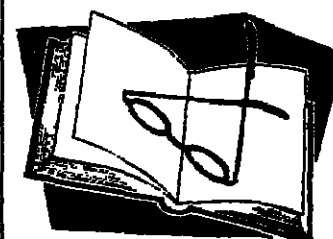
ALL THE Laurence Stephen Lowrys we mentioned in a previous column went well over their estimates at Sotheby's recent sale of modern British and Irish paintings, at which nearly 76% of the lots were sold. A wonderful Lowry of Arden's Farm doubled its estimate at £38,900. Total take at this sale was close to £1m.



Marc Chagall: 'Les Souvenirs', oils, 1971 (\$300,000-\$400,000 at Christie's Tel Aviv)

What's the truth about Little Tony?

Book Review



By Kate Shatzkin

Damages, by Barry Werth (Simon & Schuster, \$25, 384 pp.)

It's inevitable that Barry Werth's solid chronicle of a family's seven-year struggle to win legal compensation for a severely disabled son will be compared to *A Civil Action*. Jonathan Harr's brilliant bestseller about the life of a protracted lawsuit. And *Damages*, Werth's book, inevitably will suffer from that comparison.

them. The hospital, and the doctor who delivered the boys, believed just as strongly that they could not have prevented what happened.

Damages itself suffers, at times, from an irregular heartbeat. Because he has come late to the drama he describes, Werth cannot help being somewhat distanced even from his main characters.

His frequent use of partial quotations, especially as a device to help the Sabias describe themselves, makes at times for a bumpy read.

On the first page, for example, the reader learns that Donna, at 24, had been on her own "a long time." It's an understating act of journalism to scrupulously attribute descriptions — other narrative nonfiction writers have been criticized for taking liberties with "recreations" of what a character was thinking. But it makes for distraction, pulling the reader back from the story.

What the Sabias learn in the end is that while they might get money, they'll never get what they wanted from this wrenching exercise: the truth.

That's too bad, because *Damages* deserves to be read. Werth, a science writer who is the author of *The Billion-Dollar Molecule*, has tackled an inscrutable subject that affects all Americans: medical malpractice litigation. He's done it through the eyes of Donna and Tony Sabia, a working-class Connecticut couple who wanted to find out what turned their son, Little Tony, into a barely functioning shadow of a child, unable to speak, walk or eat by himself.

What the Sabias learn in the end is that while they might get money, they'll never get what they wanted from this wrenching exercise: the truth.

Werth skillfully leads the reader through the complex terrain of the Sabias' suit against Norwalk Hospital, where Donna Sabia gave birth to twins. One of them, named Michael, was already dead. Little Tony was barely alive, his blood drained into the body of his stillborn brother. A \$40 ultrasound, the Sabias' lawyer contended, could have told the hospital the twins were in trouble in time to save

In the end, I felt I knew the case that bore the Sabias' name, but not the people at the center of it.

On the other hand, Werth was able to write from many more perspectives than was Harr, who focused *A Civil Action* almost solely on the plaintiffs' lawyer Jan Schlichtmann.

Werth shows his readers the obstetrician eternally bitter over what she considered an unfair suit; the nervous midwife; the big-name defense strategist brought in at the case's end; the associate who zealously believes the hospital did no wrong.

The most intriguing character is Dr. Kurt Benirschke, an expert retained by the Sabias, whose medical opinions are paraded by each side to its advantage. Benirschke's frustration with the violation that legal posturing does to the truth is palpable and revelatory. He embodies the dissatisfaction at the heart of our country's litigation explosion: the law's expensive promise of answers to questions that, in the end, may have none.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Sudan: Paying the piper in human currency

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Once again Sudan is in the news. The famines that have taken such a dreadful toll there do not seem to be abating.

In fact, within the next 12 months, somewhere between 750,000 and one million people will most likely die of starvation. A large percentage of these will be children. This is, unfortunately, not a new situation, nor one that will disappear in the near future.

But there is one unique aspect about the famine in Sudan.

In a number of places on the African continent, drought and subsequent crop failure have created a situation in which there isn't enough food produced to prevent starvation. This, however, is not the case in Sudan. Far from it.

Sudan, a country whose area is about the size of Western Europe, has a population of 22 million and produces enough food to feed every Sudanese adequately.

The problem is not in production but in the fact that most of this food is exported for monetary gain, and the small amount kept in the country is priced competitively with exports so that only the very wealthy can afford to buy it.

It is not necessarily the fault of the current government that such a



Sudan grows enough food to feed everyone adequately so why do so many Sudanese suffer from malnutrition? (AP)

situation has come about. It started at least 30 years ago when, in an attempt to modernize the country and enrich its economy, successive governments took out large loans from the World Bank to finance projects.

First was the plan for cotton production. In activating this plan, vast areas that had been farmed by smallholders, each family producing just enough to maintain itself, were swept up into monoculture cotton fields. Many of these fami-

lies had been farming the same plot of land for over six generations but held no title to it. Removed from the land, the farmers sold their oxen for food and migrated to the cities to find work. But jobs were scarce, the new agri-

culture was not labor-intensive, and the cotton that was grown for export filled no empty stomachs.

Then, in the 1970s, the cotton market crashed. Sudan was left with a surplus of cotton, a hungry population, and large areas of land that had been rendered unproductive by cotton growing and erosion. The nation also had massive debts, the interest on which ran into millions of dollars.

Today, Sudan grows an abundance of maize, durra, barley and wheat, but these crops must be exported to pay the interest on the loans. Not only can the country not stockpile enough grain to feed the population in drought years, but the World Bank insists that Sudan rely on imported grain from the US in time of drought, using export dollars to pay for it. This, despite the fact that Sudan's home-grown cereals are far less expensive than imported grain. This simply increases the country's debt and its dependence on foreign suppliers.

Cynical observers say this is just what the World Bank and the Western world want — to keep Africa dependent and therefore manageable. Others say there seems to be no way out of the dilemma and that there is little chance of improvement.

Whatever the case may be, the fact remains that close to half the children in Sudan are malnourished. In Khartoum alone, there are 25,000 homeless children who sleep in shelters made of sandbags or flattened oil drums and are in a state of starvation. Charitable organizations do what they can, but they simply do not have enough resources to resolve this human tragedy.

book department

The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen

by Joan Nathan

70 child centered recipes and cooking activities from around the world that will draw the entire family into the spirit and fun of preparing Jewish holiday celebrations. The recipes are old and new, traditional and novel, by Joan Nathan, who has gained an international reputation as the maven of the Jewish kitchen. Enhanced by delightful color illustrations, this book is itself a recipe for family fun. Hardcover, 158 pp.

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Local agriculture is far from passé

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

With Israeli software experts establishing "Silicon wadi" startups that have shaken up the world's computer industry, computer programmers and engineers have usurped the prestige once given to pioneers growing potatoes, olives and apples under impossible conditions.

But, even as farm land is bought up by developers to build high rises and villas, and agriculture has taken on a passé image, researchers at the Volcani Center (officially known as the Agricultural Research Organization or ARO) at Beit Dagan, argue that people can't eat silicon chips.

"There's still a need to grow at least some of our food; we can't depend totally on imports," argues Volcani director Prof. Nahum Snipir.

Volcani, a government institution under the aegis of the Agriculture Ministry that has, until now, shown little ability to promote itself and explain its unique contributions to the public, recently took four MKs from the Knesset Science and Technology Committee on a tour of its facilities.

Volcani's 250 researchers, all of whom have doctoral degrees, work in seven institutes on the sprawling campus southeast of Holon: agricultural engineering, soils and water, plant protection, animal science, horticulture, field and garden crops, and technology and storage of agricultural products. Each of the institutes comprises a number of specialized departments, including poultry science, entomology, weed research, food science, soil chem-

istry, virology and aquaculture. Although the researchers are government employees who earn about 40% less than their counterparts in the universities (including the Hebrew University's agricultural faculty in Rehovot), the Treasury has put the ARO under constant pressure to cut back staff. The number of employees has been reduced from 1,570 in 1975 to 690 today. But they still supply Israel with 80% of its agricultural research, and are currently working on 750 research projects.

Why, insisted Labor MK Efi Oshaya, must Israel continue to grow food at all? Why not import fruits and vegetables from Turkey?

Snipir, piqued by the question that he hears more and more frequently, declared that not all food can be imported. "The government did decide a few years ago not to grow seeds, such as soy, for animal food. As for food for human consumption, some countries would refuse to sell for political reasons. Israel's food supply must not be dependent on such pressures."

In addition to the 21,000 local farmers (assisted by 13,000 foreign workers from Thailand), tens of thousands of other workers in supporting industries – from transport to packing – would be put out of work if farms closed down, Snipir explained. "If we turned into a Singapore, which imports much of its food, our infrastructure would collapse," Snipir added that covering over all the country's farmland with concrete would have a disastrous effect on the environment, and that leaving tracts unfarmed invites others to take over the land for illegal building.

"We are a victim of our own suc-

cess," insisted the professor, who previously was dean of the agricultural faculty in Rehovot. "Agricultural methods have advanced to such a degree and prices have come down so significantly, that now some people, especially Treasury officials, say we're not needed any more."

But, Snipir continued, much money is still to be made from innovations in biotechnology, especially aimed at creating new niche markets – tasty tomatoes with long shelf life, produce with higher natural sugar content and livestock and poultry with production records that could enter the Guinness Book of Records.

He also noted that Israel's neighbors, such as the Jordanians and the Palestinians, are interested in improving their agricultural production through regional cooperation and sharing of information. "We sit on the same underground aquifers. There's an open market. We need joint research projects, and European countries interested in peace are ready to finance them."

The four MKs – committee chairman Dalia Itzik, Oshaya, Nissim Dahan and Dr. Michael Nudelman – smelled the manure in the cowsheds and trampled over dusty paths to get down to the nitty-gritty of agricultural research. Dr. Shlomo Moyal of the poultry project wowed them by explaining the use of infrared cameras – previously utilized by army tanks to locate the enemy – for checking on various body temperatures of chickens.

"The aim of our research," he said, "is to determine the optimal conditions of temperature and humidity for the greater production of chicken meat." It was dis-



At the Volcani Center, infrared cameras once used by the IDF to locate the enemy check chickens' body temperature.

covered that chickens grow heavier in higher temperatures and humidity.

By using the sophisticated cameras to monitor and control temperatures of the chickens' heads, legs and bodies, researchers are able to double the chickens' weight. This unique research project, which involves keeping the birds in separate cages with strict environmental controls, has attracted much attention around the world. But, Moyal added, gaining too much weight puts a heavy burden on the chicken's heart and legs. "We are trying to solve this problem too."

A short drive from the poultry lab is an unusual cowshed. A few dozen

cows with small transmitters attached to their ears are waiting for lunch. But each cow is permitted to eat only from her assigned station: when one mistakenly nears a receiver incompatible with its own transmitter, access to the feeding trough is barred. But, said a Volcani veterinarian, "they quickly learn their proper place." Each cow standing in her "private" stall is automatically weighed on a scale while eating; the researchers can know what types of feed produce more bulk and milk, how much they eat and what feed they prefer.

Not even cow-rich Holland has such a system.

Volcani experts say that private companies wouldn't finance such

research, since they would want to keep patented techniques to themselves. Volcani researchers distribute their knowledge to all local farmers for the benefit of Israeli agriculture.

In the department of ruminant reproduction a few cows are standing and chewing their cud after getting an epidural injection. They are lined up for a twice-weekly procedure in which their ova are removed. These cows are the highest producers of milk, and the researchers want to pass their superior genes on to the next generation without wasting energy on pregnancies.

Like gynecologists, veterinarians don long rubber gloves, and, guided by ultrasound scans on a TV monitor, reach into the cow with a probe to remove 10 to 15 microscopic ripe ova from their ovaries. (The cows don't resist, having been rendered numb by the injection.)

The ova are then fertilized with the sperm of prime bulls and the resulting embryos frozen until implantation in surrogate mother cows. Each cow produces a yearly profit of \$150,000 by producing so many offspring. "We have patents on the preservation of ova and embryos," said one expert, who introduced the MKs to "Zeggit," a three-month-old calf born as a result of these advanced technologies. Next to Zeggit was the first calf produced by in-vitro fertilization in Israel.

In the horticulture institute, the MKs tasted each other with Merlot red wine produced from special strains of grapes irrigated in Ramat Arad with sewage water – whose pathogens do not penetrate the fruit itself. Easily peeled

clementines with few seeds were also displayed, as well as plum crops that have been injected with superior genes from other species.

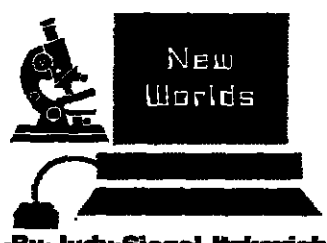
Dr. David Levy, head of the institute of field and garden crops, proudly showed off juicy cherry tomatoes – of uniform size and color – growing in a cluster that his team developed and which are now on sale in the markets. "We also use genes to produce peppers that make very powerful paprika – even the Hungarians have bought them!" The researchers are developing seedless tomatoes in demand by ketchup-processing plants that want to simplify and speed production.

In other genetic developments, Volcani researchers have taken genes from scorpions to make natural pesticides that reduce the need to spray strawberries with chemicals. A strain of cotton which is resistant to certain bugs has also been developed, reducing the amount of pesticides used on the crop – pesticides that pollute the water and the land, Levy said.

Crops researcher Dr. David Granot told the MKs he's spent years on his research into tomatoes. He has taken a gene from an inedible species and introduced it into another species to make it sweeter. In another project, tomato plant leaves are tested, even before its flowers blossom, to determine how sweet its fruit eventually will be, thus speeding up research.

Committee chairman Itzik urged Volcani to change its tactics by making greater efforts to involve private industry in funding research projects and by working to raise its image so that the government will recognize its contributions to the economy.

Multimedia medical records replace doctors' scribbles



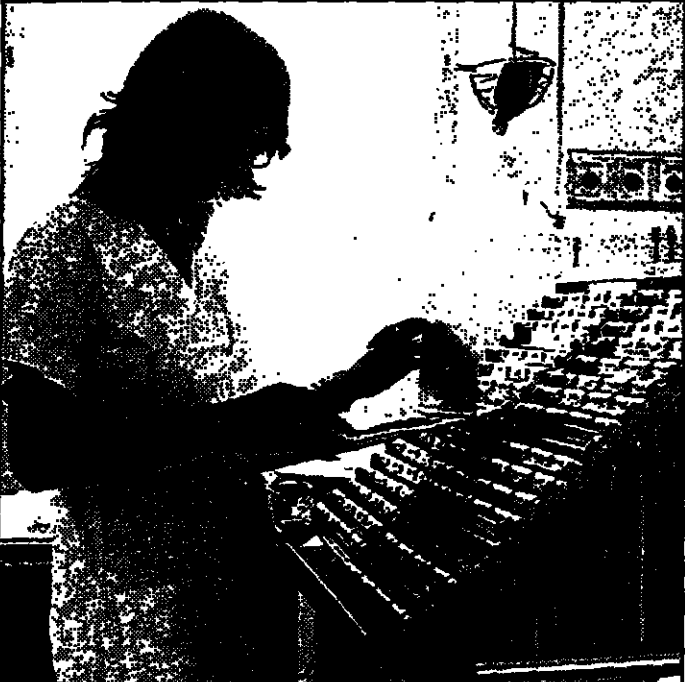
By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Medical records, which for centuries have been based on doctors' scrawls but more recently have become computerized, are entering a new era. A new computer system using Unix-based Sun hardware and software produces medical records that include not only text but also multimedia. This includes X-ray images and films from computerized tomography (CT), ultrasound, angiograms, electrocardiograms, echo Dopplers and magnetic resonance instrument (MRI) imaging.

Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek is the first hospital in the country to introduce this advanced medical record system, which will be compatible with the computerization of administrative, financial and logistical data as well.

According to hospital computerization director Emanuel Rosenblit, mutual backup of the servers prevents the system from collapsing – vital for data whose loss can mean the difference between life and death. The new system will also eliminate the need to upgrade the computer system to cope with data adjustments for the year 2000.

Hundreds of thousands of medical records stored in cardboard files at Shaare Zedek will be computerized. This, says Rosenblit, will bring about much better diagnostics. Prof. Dan Trivoni, head of the cardiology department, adds that "when we are able to see the results of an electrocardiogram or an echo



Puzzling over physicians' handwritten directives could soon be no more than a quaint memory. (Israel Talbot)

Doppler, presented in high-quality resolution and magnified, we'll be able to identify problems that can't be seen by the naked eye and to save lives." Another advantage of the Sun system is that the patient's record can be stored on a diskette or sent via the Internet to experts abroad for a second opinion.

INTERNET MANIA

There are 10,000 Israeli Internet sites today, 10 times the figure for the beginning of 1996, according to Communications Ministry director-general Daniel Rosenn, who spoke at a recent Israel Management Center conference in Tel Aviv.

Rosenn said there were at least 170,000 Internet subscribers, who pay an average monthly fee of \$15 for up to 10 hours of use and another \$1.50

for each additional hour. These rates, he said, are lower than in Europe, but still more expensive than those charged in the US.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said her ministry is currently holding discussions on plans to allow cable TV companies to offer Internet services. The aim, she said, was to prevent the formation of monopolies in the telecommunications field, as Bezeq was for many years.

"I don't intend to use force to prevent cable companies from entering the Internet market," she said. The cable companies themselves will be forced to face competition in the supply of TV channels with the introduction of digital broadcasting satellite service. Today, there are 700 outlying settlements that are not hooked up.

What your groceries say about you

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER

Standing in the supermarket checkout line, packing their purchases away and watching the cash register, few people think that they are leaving evidence about themselves. But by the time shoppers leave the supermarket, their basketful of goods has indeed spoken – to the scanner at the checkout, whose mountains of data give stores ever more subtle ways to influence purchase decisions.

Scanners have been used for years to streamline the checkout process, but they offer another significant benefit for the grocery chains. Captured by scanners, the purchase records of millions of customers provide the information for detailed statistical analyses of what sells where, when and why.

Until recently, however, the grocery industry hasn't known what to do with that information gold mine. The Downey Co. of Bethesda, Md., thinks it has the answer as it begins marketing its data analysis software to supermarket chains. Through US government contracts, the family-owned company has for years been turning scanner data from military commissaries into road maps of consumer product preferences – information used by the commissaries to run more efficient stores. Downey also has sold that data to some of the country's biggest consumer products manufacturers, such as Procter & Gamble, Quaker Oats and Nestle, which use it to see what is selling and at what price. Without that checkout-level checkup, those manufacturers only know what they've shipped, not what has sold.

But recently, having just unveiled a multimillion-dollar upgrade of its data analysis software, Downey began contacting supermarket chains in its effort to tap traditional retailers. Company officials said the data can provide a supermarket executive with guidance about the following: which brands, sizes and flavors sell the best; how price changes impact purchase patterns; what



Plugging into buying trends: Sophisticated analysis software is being marketed to American supermarkets to make stores more savvy about customers' tastes. (Brian Heister)

products tend to be bought together, and which brands a store should stock to satisfy the most shoppers.

"Stores are trying to get closer to the customer," said Lisa Downey, corporate vice president of the company. The vastness and expense of scanner data analysis has kept this kind of sophisticated merchandising tool out of the hands of many grocery executives, said Michael Sansolo, senior vice president of the Food Marketing Institute, a trade group for the grocery industry. Downloading data about millions of purchases and thousands of different products requires huge computing power, and it is prohibitively expensive for most supermarket chains to build such a system in-house.

Downey competes for supermarket-data business with two much larger companies, A.C. Nielsen (which also rates TV program popularity) and Information Resources Inc. But Downey executives say their system gives more detail about each product and transaction and is interactive in ways that Nielsen's reports are not.

Downey uses magnetic tapes that hold scanner information on thousands of different products. It codes each tape into a usable, searchable format by identifying dozens of characteristics for every item – not just name, manufacturer and price, but also flavor, size and even whether the product is low-fat or low-salt. With instant access to that kind of information, a retail chain can look at its sales

by geographic region, over time, by price, compared with the industry average and even by category within a store. The inventory buyers can see how well frozen potatoes have sold versus other frozen vegetables, or whether low-fat or low-salt frozen potato products sell better than others on the shelf.

"Most of the computer applications today are transaction-based; they're focused on getting data into the system but very good at getting data out of the system," said G. Glenn Grimes, of the company's data-processing division. "We focus on what all that data means collectively over time, region and product categories, so the trends and patterns begin to appear and the data begin to speak to you." (The Washington Post)

'Sisyphus cooling' and the exhilarating race to control atoms

By TOMER SPINNER

Laser radiation is commonly associated with intense heat. But Prof. Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, the latest Nobel laureate in physics, uses a sophisticated setup of intense lasers to "trap" and cool gas atoms to what is probably the lowest temperature in the universe.

The Algerian-born, French-Jewish scientist was in Ellat recently to attend the Fifth France-Israel Symposium on Non-Linear Optics, chaired by Prof. Yehiam Prior of the Weizmann Institute and Izo Abram of France.

He is the first Sephardi Jew to win a Nobel Prize in the sciences.

Tannoudji, who is 65, attended the same high school as literature Nobel laureate Albert Camus. "I'm appalled to see the current tragedy in Algeria," he says. "And I hope someone will save that beautiful country."

To understand why he and his colleagues have invested such efforts in

cooling atoms, one has to realize that even on the calmest day, when the air is perfectly still, constant microscopic "storms" are violently pushing atoms particles around.

Surprisingly, air molecules and atoms that surround us bounce off each other randomly at speeds of about 4,000 kms. per hour – twice as fast as a jet fighter. This rapid motion, which reflects the particle's thermal energy, poses serious difficulties for scientists.

Moving atoms disappear all too quickly while being observed. If they emit light, their wavelength appears somewhat distorted due to the Doppler effect.

When a train blowing its horn approaches, it seems to sound like a treble, but as it moves further away, it sounds more bass; similarly, distortions also occur in light waves.

To minimize these distortions one must slow down the "train" (our analogy to atoms). Slowing down atoms means cooling them, but then they finally freeze

into a solid, losing some of their "individual" characteristics. It then becomes much harder to probe their internal structure.

To make things worse, even at temperatures as low as minus 270 degrees Celsius, atoms still jump around faster than a racing car. Only very close to absolute zero (minus 273 degrees Celsius) do atoms really calm down. At one-millionth of a degree above absolute zero, free hydrogen atoms move at a leisurely pace of less than 1 km. per hour.

Cohen-Tannoudji, and US co-laureates Steven Chu and William Phillips, have devised unique laser-cooling techniques for trapping gas atoms and cooling them in a vacuum (to avoid freezing). The concept of laser cooling was introduced two decades ago.

Physicists have long known that atoms can absorb light particles called photons only at certain specific frequencies (colors) which are determined by the atom's inner structure (energy levels). Each time

a photon of the right color hits an atom, it gives it a little "push." The idea was to shoot laser beams in pairs and trap atoms in between, and then to tune the trapping beams to a slightly lower frequency (weaker energy) than needed for an effective "push" so that an atom already at rest wouldn't be much affected.

But should an atom try to escape and rush towards one of the beams, the Doppler effect would come into play and halt this "fugitive."

An analogous situation would be a train that is stationary and a car coming toward it. The car driver would hear a higher pitch than the true sound of the horn.

In 1985, American researchers trapped sodium atoms by flashing six laser beams from different directions that all intersected in one spot.

About a million chilled atoms were trapped at the intersection point and a glowing cloud the size of a pea could be seen with the naked eye.

"This Doppler-cooling idea is really

brilliant," noted Tannoudji. "Only moving atoms feel the stopping force of the trapping beams."

In the 1970s, physicists calculated a theoretical Doppler limit – about a thousandth of a degree above absolute zero – and believed that no lower temperature could be attained. Then in 1988, Phillips achieved a temperature six times lower.

"Our calculations suggested that an atom trying to escape the trap is somewhat like the Greek mythological hero Sisyphus endlessly rolling his stone up the slope. Only in this case, we found that the slope beyond the crest is even steeper."

The big fall to the bottom illustrates the entrapment. The process has been dubbed as "Sisyphus cooling," and a barrier 1,000 times lower than the Doppler limit was calculated.

But this was not the end of the never-ending race to absolute zero. About a year ago, Tannoudji's team invented the

"sub-recoil" cooling process capable of yielding temperatures 1,000 times lower. In collaboration with US co-laureates Chu and Phillips, a temperature of 1.8 billionths of a degree above absolute zero was reached.

"Future applications are promising," said Prof. Nicholas Blumberg, a 1981 Nobel laureate in physics who also attended the Ellat symposium. "With gas atoms virtually motionless, it would be possible to build atomic clocks accurate enough to measure the lifetime of the universe with an error of no more than a few seconds."

This accuracy can be applied in satellite navigation. Timing a laser beam with such a clock would enable measuring huge distances with an accuracy of within centimeters," he said.

"The capability to control atoms may have a profound implication on future micro-electronics," Tannoudji added. "A very accurate 'spray' of gas atoms could be used to 'paint' tiny electrical circuits and push miniaturization to new levels."

Granot driving

The P



Health Reporter

Grandma wants to go on driving – but is she safe?

By SUSAN LEVINE

With the aging of the population and the growing numbers of pensioners getting behind the wheel, US authorities are debating what to do to prevent accidents among this age group. By 2020, the US will have more than 40 million registered drivers at least 70 years of age. And, after all, not everybody can have a paid chauffeur, as in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Jacob Mendelson, for example, has belonged to a club in downtown Alexandria, Virginia, for most of his 82 years, and he drives there nearly every day from his apartment. He knows he reacts more slowly in traffic and sees less because of glaucoma, so he tries to be careful, but he has no intention of hanging up his car keys. "I'm not going to stay here and look at four walls," he says.

Doris Jackson is 81, and these days the garage of her Washington home stands empty. She gave away her treasured Honda in the fall after suffering a stroke and other medical problems. For any trip now, she must arrange for friends to pick her up, or bunch her errands together to minimize cab rides.

Mendelson and Jackson embody the predicament facing many elderly men and women and their families, and the authorities are being forced to address the issue of millions of aging drivers on the roads. It's a tough trade-off between safety and mobility, between the risk to life and the risk to quality of life.

"Transportation is the glue that keeps life together," said Joseph Coughlin of the Center for Transportation Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "If you pull it without providing an alternative, it's like sentencing many elderly people to isolation." Although there still are calls to get them off the road, far more attention is being paid today to helping seniors or giving them options once their driving days are over.

Maryland researchers will soon launch a pilot program for a driver screening assessment, asking elderly subjects to perform a brief series of tests, including quickly walking a short path, recalling three words after several minutes' time, reaching as high overhead as possible and tapping their right foot between two marks.

If successful, the assessment would be used in motor vehicle offices and by social workers, doctors and senior centers. The goal, said researcher Loren Staplin, "is to encourage as much self-regulation among the senior population as possible."

Some statisticians argue that the number of crashes and fatalities involving seniors is disproportionately high when calculated per kilometer traveled, the driver-fatality rate shows that they are more vulnerable than any other age group but teenagers. Left turns are a particular death trap. Others, however, question how much weight should be given to those worst-case statistics. They note that one reason more elderly people are killed in motor vehicle accidents is that they are more frail physically. Based on other numbers, seniors actually pose less danger. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the 70-and-older



'Miss Daisy' had a paid chauffeur, but most aging drivers face the tough trade-off between risk to life and risk to quality of life. (Shapiro Films Ltd.)

crowd has 34 crashes per 1,000 drivers, compared with 63 crashes for drivers ages 35 to 44, and 50 crashes for those ages 45 to 54.

Many regulate themselves quite effectively as they age: when hearing and vision diminish, or attention and persistence lag, they cut back on driving. A geriatric nurse practitioner in Richmond, Virginia, recently evaluated a woman with moderate dementia who had fought her family's efforts to keep her off the road. They let all the air out of her tires and removed her distributor cap, but each time, she outwitted them.

Should physicians be required to report patients to motor vehicle departments? Would those departments be staffed adequately to screen large groups of older drivers intensively? What guidance or

might as well put a noose around my neck," she said bitterly. And studies indicate that those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease – the people with the least insight into their limitations – continue to get behind the wheel. A geriatric nurse practitioner in Richmond, Virginia, recently evaluated a woman with moderate dementia who had fought her family's efforts to keep her off the road. They let all the air out of her tires and removed her distributor cap, but each time, she outwitted them.

Should physicians be required to report patients to motor vehicle departments? Would those departments be staffed adequately to screen large groups of older drivers intensively? What guidance or

assistance should be provided to a person whose license is yanked?

Because of budget concerns and the political strength of pensioners' groups, which consider testing based solely on age as discriminatory, few states routinely make seniors demonstrate driving skills before reissuing a license. Some require those 70 or older to present a physician's approval for license renewal, but others have moved in the opposite direction: in Florida, an older driver with a clean record can go 18 years without setting foot in a motor vehicle office.

Katherine Freund, who runs a non-profit transportation network for the elderly in Portland, Maine, believes it's better to make getting around easier for the elderly. She uses volunteers and paid drivers to ferry 500 seniors to doctors, hairdressers, nursing homes and grocery stores. In a dozen other communities from Atlanta to Rochester, Minn., a national business collaborative is providing two-year grants to organizations trying to establish or expand similar projects.

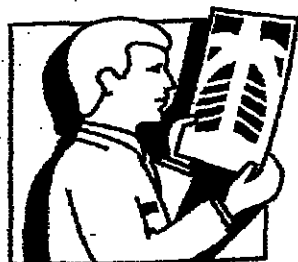
Its motivation was the amount of time employees of the participating companies – giants such as IBM and Johnson & Johnson – were asking to take off work to transport aging parents to appointments or on errands. (The Washington Post)

Tips for elderly drivers

Retirees who continue to drive are advised to follow this advice: plan out your trips; use familiar streets; avoid rush-hour traffic or heavily traveled highways; allow more distance between cars; don't drive under stress; at intersections without protected signals, avoid left turns and instead, go up a block and come back to the intersection by making three right turns. Minimize background noise by keeping your radio, air conditioner or heater on the lowest possible setting; know how medications you are taking can affect your driving; limit night driving; and be alert to warning signs that driving skills may be slipping. (The Washington Post)

'The Pill' that stays on the skin

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

A contraceptive drug in the form of a patch worn on the skin for a week at a time is undergoing final testing at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospitals in Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus, along with numerous medical centers in Europe and the US.

Hadassah gynecologist Dr. Arnon Brzezinski, who is conducting the local trials, says the Janssen-Cilag contraceptive patch should be beneficial for women who forget to take the Pill and those who suffer gastrointestinal problems from oral contraceptives.

Brzezinski, who is looking for additional volunteers to use the patch in the Health Ministry-approved clinical trials, says it could be on the market here and abroad in about a year.

He is also testing a skin patch containing estrogen and progesterone on menopausal women receiving hormone replacement therapy. The new patch is different from

the previous ones that contained only one hormone and required that the other be taken orally. It is meant for women suffering from night sweats, sleep disturbances and heat sensations.

A third medication, but in pill form, being tested at Hadassah is Raloxifene, an estrogen-like substance meant for menopausal women who are not permitted for health reasons to take estrogen and who don't suffer so much from night sweats and heat sensations.

This drug, already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, is made by Eli Lilly and reportedly has better effects on the uterus and breasts than estrogen.

Women who want to participate in the clinical trials of any of the three should call (02) 677-8092 for information.

LESBIANS

'HEAR DIFFERENTLY'

US scientists have reported the first strong physiological evidence that lesbian and bisexual women may be biologically different from heterosexual women.

The University of Texas researchers found that, compared with heterosexual women, the hearing of homosexual and bisexual women tends to be more like that of men.

The findings, reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, suggest that homosexual and bisexual women develop in subtly different ways

than heterosexual women. Therefore, their brains may also form differently, accounting for their different type of sexuality, the researchers suggested.

"It's an indication that other brain sites have also been masculinized," said Dennis McFadden, a psychology professor who led the study – the latest to deal with the controversial question of whether homosexuality has a biological basis.

Previous research has found, for example, that a part of the brain believed to be involved in sexuality is smaller in homosexual than heterosexual men. But no such findings had been reported about homosexual or bisexual women.

Low levels of male hormones, which circulate in the blood of all pregnant women, could masculinize some female fetuses in the womb, perhaps affecting parts of their anatomy, such as those involved in hearing and sexual preference, he said.

Like much of the previous research, the new findings immediately sparked criticism.

"All of this research perpetuates stereotypes – in this case that lesbians are more masculine than heterosexual women," according to John De Cecco, a professor of psychology and human sexuality at San Francisco State University.

De Cecco, who is editor of the *Journal of Homosexuality*, insisted that homosexuality is not a biological characteristic, but rather a

"psychological, social, personal, cultural thing."

But Sandra Witelson of McMaster University, who studies the relationship of brain anatomy to sexual orientation, said: "The results support the theory that differences in the central nervous system exist between homosexual and heterosexual individuals and that the differences are possibly related to early factors in brain development."

Researchers have long known that the inner ear produces imperceptible echoes in response to weak clicking sounds.

Used to diagnose potential hearing problems in infants, these emissions generally are slightly louder in women, but no one knows why.

Women who have twin brothers tend to produce weaker echoes, suggesting that exposure to hormones from male twins in the womb may affect female development in subtle ways that make them slightly more "masculine" than other women.

McFadden's team inserted into the ears of 237 subjects tiny acoustic equipment that produced a very low clicking sound and measured the echo.

As a group, the emissions of 61 homosexual and bisexual women were weaker than those of 57 heterosexual women, though still stronger than men. No differences were found between homosexual and bisexual women, or between homosexual and heterosexual men.

Is a vegetarian diet risky for teens?



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

My 13-year-old daughter suddenly announced she wants to be a vegetarian – no meat, poultry, fish, eggs or even milk – after seeing a film that showed the slaughter of animals. Is such a diet dangerous for a girl of this age? What can she eat that will prevent harm to her growth and development? R.A., Ashkelon.

Olga Raz, chief of the dietetic unit at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, replies:

Your daughter's adopting such a diet should worry you. I strongly recommend that both of you go to an expert dietician for advice on what she should eat. I won't set down guidelines because each case is individual.

Limiting herself so strictly is risky, as she would lack vitamins, minerals such as calcium and iron and calories to promote her normal growth and development.

Your daughter's motivation in changing her diet was apparently trauma from seeing animals being slaughtered, but in some cases of teenagers – especially girls – a sudden change in diet could be an early sign of an eating disorder, so an expert must be consulted.

I am a man in my mid-fifties. Recently my toes went numb; they are so all the time. Some shoes are better than others, and sandals are the best, but it makes no difference if I put my feet up. I have no problem walking. I consulted several neurologists, one of whom suggested I take diet pills. Another said I



Vegetables are important, but an adolescent who eats little else won't develop properly. (Sivan Farag)

have back problems (but I don't think I do). What could my problem be? Is there any physical therapy that might help? H.J., Jerusalem.

Prof. Avinoam Reches, a senior neurologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, answers:

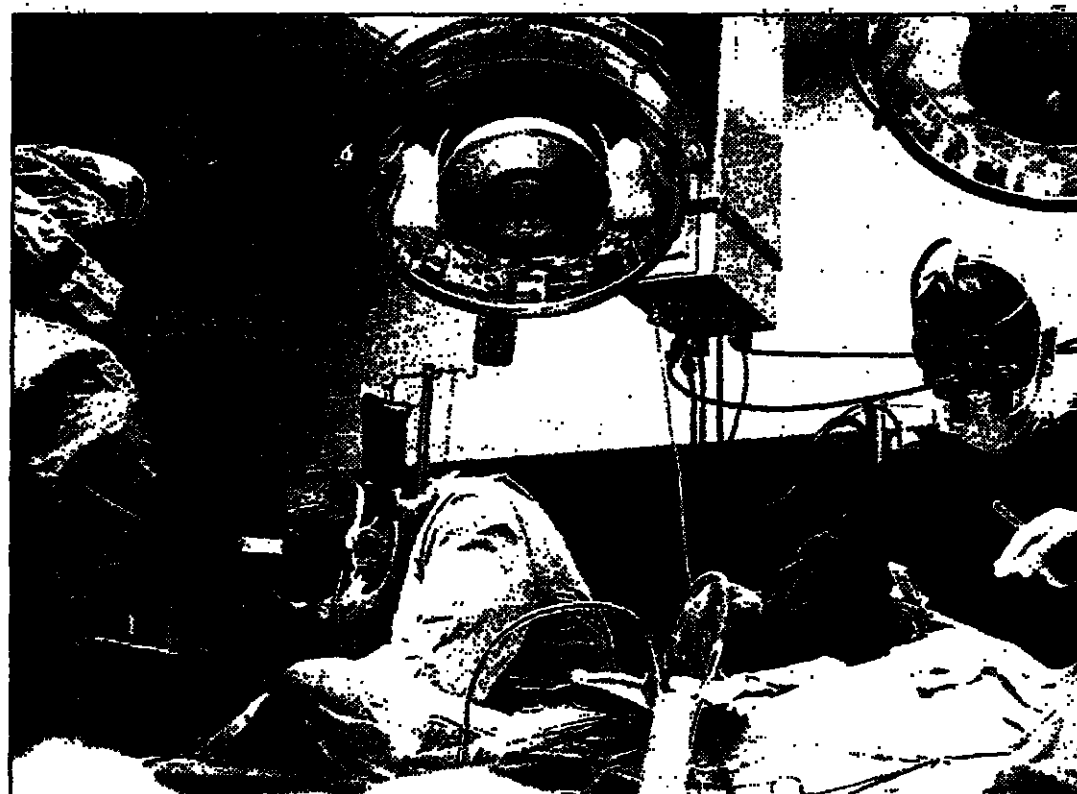
It sounds as if your problem is peripheral neuropathy, in which nerve function in the periphery of the body declines. The most common cause of this is diabetes, whether or not there are other symptoms.

It could be a vascular problem, in which too little oxygen reaches your toes, but this would be true only if you suffer from numbness

after physical effort. I recommend that you go to a neurologist for a conduction velocity test and also be tested for diabetes.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to jusie@jpost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.



The rapid and painless sealing of cuts and incisions could revolutionize some fields of medicine. (Nissan Shorer)

Fixing up patients with surgical super glue

By LEN IWANSKI

Emergency room physicians may soon glue cuts back together painlessly, rather than using stitches or staples. And that would be just a start. Doctors already are using surgical glues in experimental heart, lung and eye surgery, mastectomies and knee replacements.

"It's a cutting-edge area, with many competitive technologies going after a huge market that could revolutionize surgery in the next millennium," said Gwen Como of San Diego-based Protein Polymer Technologies Inc., one of the companies working on commercial development.

The concept is not new. The US Army used a quick-sealing glue to treat battlefield wounds in the Vietnam War, and surgical glues have been used in Europe and Canada for more than a decade.

However, the US Food and Drug Administration has not approved commercial surgical glue for use in the US.

That may soon change. An advisory panel in January recommended the FDA approve a "super glue" derivative called DermaBond, manufactured by

Closure Medical Corp. of Raleigh, North Carolina, as a painless alternative to sutures or staples for closing wounds.

The rapid and painless sealing of cuts and incisions could revolutionize some fields of medicine.

"Virtually any specialty that closes the skin will find this useful," said Dr. Alexander Trotter, a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Cincinnati.

Surgeons also believe glues will have life-saving applications in the operating room – not just to close external cuts but to repair damage to internal organs and tissue.

University of Montana heart surgeon Dr. A. Craig Eddy has successfully tested a product called BioGlue in surgery on sheep to repair an often-fatal condition called acute aortic dissection, which is a tear in the heart's main artery.

The standard surgical repair technique is a graft, but about 20 percent of patients who undergo the procedure die.

Up to 30 percent suffer such problems as permanent paralysis, kidney failure or stroke. Eddy said. These ill effects occur because organs are deprived of blood during surgery.

While the standard surgical repair typically takes from 30 to 90 minutes, gluing the layers back together can be done in as little as four minutes.

The EU already has approved BioGlue, a protein polymer that combines chemical and biological elements, for use in human vascular surgery. The Georgia manufacturer will soon apply to the FDA to begin clinical testing. "It's going to have a big impact on surgical practice. I think it's going to revolutionize cardiovascular surgery in the United States," Eddy said.

Dr. Raymond Singer of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley Hospital has used a "super glue" and a Teflon patch for emergency heart repair. The technique has been used successfully on 10 patients.

Dr. William Spontitz, a heart surgeon at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, has for more than a decade been making an organically derived glue called fibrin to stop bleeding and help heal wounds.

It uses the patient's own blood or blood-bank blood as the raw material, and the biological glue has been used safely on more than 3,000 University of Virginia patients since 1985. Spontitz said. (AP)

Rios closes in on Numero uno

KEY BISCAINE (AP) — Marcelo Rios weighs only 150 pounds (68 kilos), but to Chileans he's bigger than soccer. And he needs just one more win to become the No. 1 tennis player in the world.

With countrymen shouting *Ole!* the pony-tailed, left-hander beat Tim Henman 6-2, 4-6, 6-0 in the Lipton semi-finals Friday, losing just five points in the final set.

His opponent in the final today will be three-time Lipton champion Andre Agassi, who advanced by beating Alex Corretja 6-4, 6-2.

"It's the best match you can have — beating Agassi to be No. 1," Rios said. If Rios wins, he'll end Pete Sampras' streak of 102 consecutive weeks atop the rankings. Agassi, a longtime Sampras rival, is amused by the scenario.

"I don't know why they're talking Rios and Sampras," he told a cheering crowd after beating Corretja. "At the end of the year, I'm going to be No. 1."

The resurgent Agassi, who was ranked 141st in November, will be back in the top 30 next week. Rios, meanwhile, could become Latin America's first *Numero uno* in ATP Tour history.

"People in Chile are expecting Sunday to be like Christmas," said Mauricio Bayona, a reporter for *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language newspaper in Miami. "If he loses, it's going to be a

tragedy in Chile."

Rios' rooting section in the upper deck at Lipton will likely be larger today. Several charter planes are scheduled to make the nine-hour flight from Santiago to Miami bringing fans for the final.

The match will be settled from the baseline, with Agassi's power matched against Rios' speed in the first meeting

between the two. They're the hottest players on the tour, sporting identical records this year of 24-3.

Rios likes his chances. "I can't be more confident," he said. "I've been winning a lot of matches — easy matches, tough matches. When you go on the court thinking you can be No. 1, you're going out there with a lot of confidence."

The women's final offers a peak at the future last night when 16-year-old Anna Kournikova played 17-year-old Venus Williams for the first time.

Kournikova defeated top-10 players four days in a row — a first on the WTA Tour — to earn her first berth in a final. Williams eliminated No. 1 Martina Hingis in the semifinals and will join the top-10 for the first time next week.

Rios is assured of at least the No. 2 ranking next week. He reached his first Grand Slam tournament final at the Australian Open in January and has won 10 consecutive matches.

Jordan draws record crowd in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Michael Jordan didn't disappoint a crowd of 62,046 — the largest in NBA history — as he scored 34 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to their eighth straight victory, an 89-74 rout of the Atlanta Hawks.

Jordan, making what might have been his final appearance in Atlanta, wowed the Georgia Dome throng at the offensive end, shut down Steve Smith at the

defensive end and finished off by making a left-handed free throw when the game was decided.

The turnout broke the previous NBA record of 61,983, set January 29, 1988, for a game between Boston and Detroit at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Pacers 133, Hornets 96 Reggie Miller scored 24 points before being ejected for a flagrant foul on Wade Davis as Indiana trounced the visitors.

The loss snapped a five-game winning streak for the Hornets, who dropped four games behind Indiana in the race for the third playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Suns 110, 76ers 95 Tim Duncan scored 24 points and had a career-high 21 rebounds in the third quarter to snatch a road win.

Tim Thomas, Derrick Coleman, Joe Smith and Benoit Benjamin all

tried and failed to stop Duncan, who grabbed eight rebounds and ended up three points shy of his career high.

Allen Iverson led Philadelphia with 24.

Heat 102, Bucks 77 Alonzo Mourning scored 34 points and host Miami gained its 50th victory of the season.

The Heat (50-21), winners of five straight and 23 of 27, have the second-best record in the Eastern Conference behind Chicago.

Mourning shot 13-of-18 from the floor and grabbed 11 rebounds in 36 minutes. Tim Hardaway and reserve center Marty Conlon each added 11 points for the Heat.

Cavaliers 88, Pistons 87 (OT) Wesley Person hit a 3-point shot with 0.3 seconds left in overtime to give Cleveland a home win.

Person wrestled away a rebound from the Pistons' Grant Hill with four seconds left, backed out past the 3-point line and let fly.

The shot halted Detroit's season-high four-game winning streak.

Catlets 82, Nets 76 Visiting Boston rebounded from its lowest scoring half of the season by holding New Jersey to 11 second-half field goals.

Nets center Jayson Williams fractured his right thumb with a little less than nine minutes to play. He will be out for the remainder of the regular season.

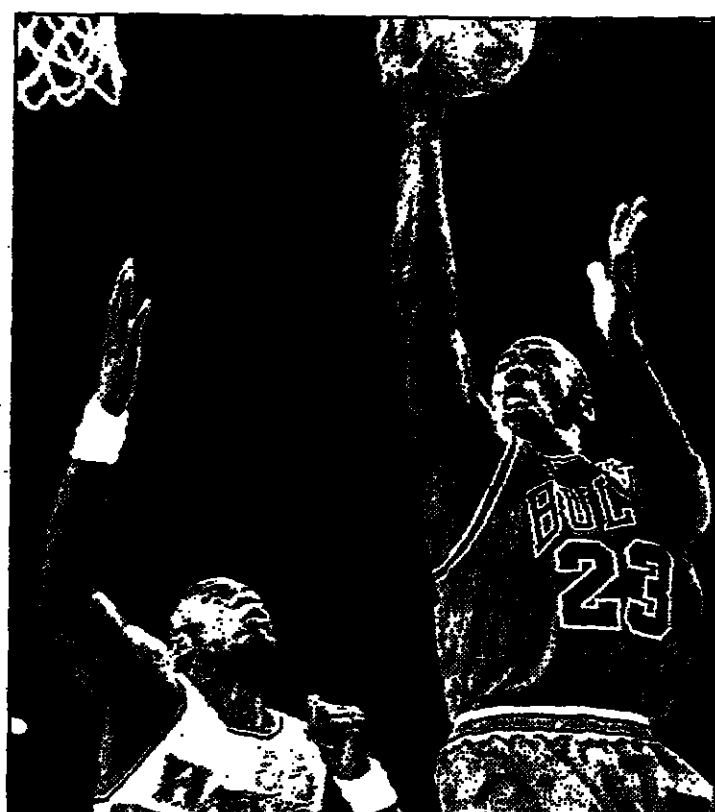
The loss and the injury were double blows to the Nets' playoff hopes with less than a month left in the season. New Jersey has lost 10 of its last 13 games.

Ron Mercer led the Celtics with 23 and former Kentucky teammate Antoine Walker had 22. Sam Cassell had 29 points for New Jersey.

Magic 100, Rockets 75 Florida, Derek Strong scored 20 points and Horace Grant had 19 as host Orlando gave coach Chuck Daly his 1,000th career victory.

The win gave the Magic a sweep of the two-game season series for the fourth straight season.

Jazz 99, Mavericks 90 Karl Malone had 33 points and 14 rebounds as visiting Utah



UP AND OVER — Chicago's Michael Jordan scores against Atlanta's Dikembe Mutombo in Friday's action. The Bulls won 89-74.

stretched its winning streak to four games and remained the league's hottest team.

Jeff Hornacek scored 18 points and John Stockton added 12 for the Jazz, who have won 22 of their last 24 games and remained tied in the loss column with Chicago.

Nuggets 97, Warriors 89 Host Denver nailed down victory No. 9 and ensured itself of at least tying the record for fewest victories in a single season.

Johnny Newman scored 22 points and LaPhonso Ellis added 21 as the Nuggets pulled away for a victory over Golden State.

The Nuggets (9-63) still need one more win in their final 10 games to eclipse the 9-73 mark of futility set by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1972-73.

Suns 89, Wizards 85 Cliff Robinson's hook shot in the lane with 11.2 seconds left broke an 85-all tie and Phoenix won a home game that featured six lead changes in the final five minutes.

Trail Blazers 90, Kings 73 Isaiah Rider scored 24 points and Brian Grant had 19 points and 14 rebounds as visiting Portland snapped a seven-game losing streak at Arco Arena dating back to November 10, 1994.

T-wolves 100, Clippers 98 Sam Mitchell scored eight of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as Minnesota clinched a playoff berth on the Clippers' home court for the second straight year.

Kevin Garnett added 17 points and Stephon Marbury had 12 assists and 10 points, helping the

Timberwolves beat the Clippers for the sixth straight time.

Knicks 97, Grizzlies 89 (OT) Larry Johnson scored four of his 23 points in the final two minutes of overtime as New York improved to 3-0 on its four-game Western road trip.

Johnson connected on a pair of 16-foot jump shots to give the Knicks a 91-87 lead with 1:21 to play.

Johnson shot 10-of-16 from the field and pulled down seven rebounds for the Knicks.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-New York	50	21	.704	—
New Jersey	40	31	.563	10
Orlando	34	35	.507	14
Washington	36	35	.507	14
Boston	31	39	.443	18 1/2
Philadelphia	25	45	.357	24 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Chicago	54	17	.761	—
x-Indiana	49	21	.700	4 1/2
Charlotte	45	25	.643	8 1/2
Atlanta	41	28	.594	12
Cleveland	39	31	.557	14 1/2
Detroit	34	37	.479	19
Memphis	30	40	.429	23 1/2
Toronto	15	54	.217	38
Western Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Itah	52	17	.754	—
x-San Antonio	48	23	.676	4
x-Houston	37	33	.529	15 1/2
x-Minnesota	37	34	.521	16
Utah	18	53	.254	35
Dallas	16	54	.232	36 1/2
Denver	9	63	.125	44 1/2
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Seattle	52	18	.743	—
x-L.A. Lakers	50	19	.725	1 1/2
x-Phoenix	46	25	.646	6 1/2
x-Portland	39	31	.557	13
Sacramento	26	46	.361	27
L.A. Clippers	15	55	.214	37
Golden State	15	56	.211	37 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Itah	52	17	.754	—
x-San Antonio	48	23	.676	4
x-Houston	37	33	.529	15 1/2
x-Minnesota	37	34	.521	16
Utah	18	53	.254	35
Dallas	16	54	.232	36 1/2
Denver	9	63	.125	44 1/2
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x-Portland	39	31	.557	13
Sacramento	26	46	.361	27
L.A. Clippers	15	55	.214	37
Golden State	15	56	.211	37 1/2

Friday's results: Indiana 83, Charlotte 74; Chicago 89, Atlanta 74; San Antonio 110, Philadelphia 85; Miami 82, Milwaukee 77; Boston 82, New Jersey 76; Cleveland 88, Detroit 87 (OT); Orlando 100, Houston 75; Utah 99, Dallas 90; Phoenix 89, Washington 85; Denver 97, Golden State 89; Portland 90, Sacramento 75; New York 97, Vancouver 89 (OT); Minnesota 100, L.A. Clippers 98; Thursday's results: Cleveland 97, Toronto 94; Charlotte 94, Milwaukee 87; Portland 100, Vancouver 102; Golden State 98, Seattle 91.

Blatter will run for FIFA top spot

ZURICH (AP) — The battle is officially on.

FIFA formally announced Friday that secretary general Sepp Blatter will run for the office of presidency, pitting him against UEFA president and long-time Joao Havelange foe Lennart Johansson.

FIFA announced Friday that secretary general Sepp Blatter will run for the office of presidency, pitting him against UEFA president and long-time Joao Havelange foe Lennart Johansson.

Havelange will retire at this year's World Cup, stepping down after 24 years on soccer's throne, and he is loathe to hand it over to Johansson, who wants to reverse FIFA's consolidation of power by sending much of the game's authority back to the confederations.

Johansson fired the first shot. "I am worried that the highest ranked employee of the FIFA administration has been misusing his position as general secretary to prepare his candidature and is campaigning for himself," he said in a statement.

Blackhawks defeat Senators

CHICAGO (AP) — Goaltender Jeff Hackett stopped 16 of 17

Ottawa shots and Greg Johnson and Alex Zhamnov scored second-period goals Friday night as the Chicago Blackhawks defeated the Senators 2-1.

The Blackhawks, 5-1-1 in their last seven games, improved to 29-31-12 and moved into sole possession of sixth place in the Western Conference standings.

The Senators, who got a power-play goal from Shawn McEachern, are 1-3-2 in their last six contests but remain in eighth place in the NHL's Eastern Conference.

Sabres 1, Oilers 0

In Friday's only other scheduled game, Dominik Hasek stopped 20 shots to earn his 12th shutout of the season as Buffalo posted its third consecutive road victory.

Miroslav Satan scored the lone goal and the Sabres moved into a tie for fourth place in the Eastern Conference with Boston.

Buffalo has 11 games left, Boston 12.

Hasek moved within three shutouts of Tony Esposito's single-season league record. He is currently tied with former Philadelphia Flyers great Bernie Parent.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	44	18	9	97	199	137
Philadelphia	36	23	11	83	208	166
Washington	32	28	11	75	187	182
N.Y. Rangers	22	33	17	61	179	204
N.Y. Islanders	24	36	10	58	182	200
Florida	19	39	12	50	167	223
Tampa Bay	16	45	9	41	137	220
Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	34	20	15	87	199	165
Boston	32	25	13	77	184	164
Buffalo	31	25	15	77	181	161
Montreal	33	29	9	75	204	181
Ottawa	28	31	12	68	167	178
Carolina	28	34	7	63	170	188
Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	42	17	11	95	210	138
x-Detroit	38	19	15	91	219	174
S. Louis	37	26	8	82	208	170
Chicago	29	31	12	70	178	174
Phoenix	28	31	12	68	193	199
Toronto	25	37	9	59	161	202
Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Colorado	34	20	16	88	209	177
Los Angeles	33	26	11	77	203	187
Edmonton	28	35	10	66	183	202
San Jose	28	36	7	63	173	190
Anaheim	24	37	11	59	177	222
Calgary	23	35	13	59	188	215
Vancouver	22	38	13	57	201	250

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	42	17	11	95	210	138
x-Detroit	38	19	15	91	219	174
S. Louis	37	26	8	82	208	170
Chicago	29	31	12	70	178	174
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Anaheim	24	37	11	59	177	222
Calgary	23	35	13	59	188	215
Vancouver	22	38	13	57	201	250

climaxed playoff berth. Friday's results: Chicago 89, Boston 71; Edmonton 0, Thursday's results: Boston 4, Philadelphia 2; Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 1; N.Y. Islanders 4, Pittsburgh 3; Florida 5, Montreal 4; Anaheim 3, Detroit 3; St. Louis 3, Tampa Bay 2; Toronto 1, Dallas 0; New Jersey 2, Colorado 0; Calgary 3, Washington 2; Buffalo 5, Vancouver 2; San Jose 5, Los Angeles 2.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The final stage of the Ninth International Artur Schnabel Piano Competition opens today and runs through Wednesday at the Marm Auditorium in Tel Aviv (8:30) as each of the six finalists plays two concerti with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Mendi Rodan.

Polish pianist Andrzej Jasinski and French pianist François Duchable, members of the jury of the current Rubinstein Competition, present master classes today (from 9:30 a.m.) at the Israel Music Conservatory in Tel Aviv.

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance presents a week-long international symposium on The Art of Composition - Towards the 21st Century. Today's discussions conclude with a concert of 20th century music with works by Berg, Debussy, Hindemith, Bartok, Stravinsky and Beethoven performed by some of the leading Israeli musicians (8:30) at the Wise Auditorium in Jerusalem.

Uruguayan baritone Carlos Cazzoglio performs a recital of music by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Tosti and South American composers tonight (8) at Beit Ariela in Tel Aviv and Thursday at the Ilan Music Center in Ein Karem Jerusalem (8).

Doron Solomon leads his Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in Rossini's third sonata for strings, while father and son Yuri and Yoni Gandelman play the violin and viola concerto by Bruch and Mozart's sinfonia concertante tonight in Ein Haborosh, Tuesday in Nahariya and next Sunday in Tiberias (8:30), with one concert in Tzavta in Tel Aviv on Saturday (11:11 a.m.).

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** AS GOOD AS IT GETS - With this bitersweet romantic comedy, writer and director



Jack Nicholson gives an Oscar-winning performance in 'As Good As It Gets'.

James L. Brooks aims right at a decent, unambitious middle ground and hits almost all of his marks. And while it may seem questionable to commend a filmmaker for shamelessly lowering the dramatic stakes (the film features a shaggy little dog, for instance, who reacts adorably and on cue to most of the characters' tantrums), the movie is so well-proportioned and entertaining in its cartoonish, commercial and unprofound way, it's easy to overlook all the things that it isn't, and doesn't try to be. The film is clearly inspired by television and centers on the unlikely relationship between Melvin (Jack Nicholson), a sour loner of a romance novelist with an obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Carol (Helen Hunt), a straight-talking single mother and waitress, burdened by her young son's serious asthma. Both won Oscars for their performances. (Parental guidance suggested.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 The Last Voyage of the Great Ship
8:30 Science
8:45 Mathematics
10:00 Programs for the very young

CHANNEL 1 (11)

11:30 The Environment
11:30 Nature
12:00 Mathematics
12:10 Time for Language
12:15 News in English

CHANNEL 1 (11)

12:30 Super Ben and Zep
12:35 X-Men
12:40 Byker Grove
12:50 Zappas
12:55 A New Evening
1:00 Broadway Mobile
1:10 Time for Language
1:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

16:30 Amal and Kamal Studio
16:30 News
16:30 Hebrew Programs

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CHANNEL 1 (11)

11:30 The Environment
11:30 Nature
12:00 Mathematics
12:10 Time for Language
12:15 News in English

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 The Last Voyage of the Great Ship
8:30 Science
8:45 Mathematics
10:00 Programs for the very young

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11:30 Nature
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12:10 Time for Language
12:15 News in English

CHANNEL 1 (11)

12:30 Super Ben and Zep
12:35 X-Men
12:40 Byker Grove
12:50 Zappas
12:55 A New Evening
1:00 Broadway Mobile
1:10 Time for Language
1:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

16:30 Amal and Kamal Studio
16:30 News
16:30 Hebrew Programs

HEBREW PROGRAMS

16:30 News Flash
16:31 News in Arabic
16:45 Good Morning Israel

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PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30	Home Improvement Planned on the Street	News	Beverly Hills 90210	Chances	Last Resort	Family Matters Married with Children	The Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Flies of Passage
20:00	Thru	It'll Be OK	Friends	E.R.	Yair Lapid Live at 10	The Escape Cause	Love Songs	Deadly Bugs
21:00	World Champions	The Practice	Seinfeld	Ricki Lake				
22:00								
23:00								

PRIME TIME TV

21:30 Beverly Hills 90210
22:00 Nola Bump and Jumps (pt)
22:00 Tonight Show
22:00 Proffer: Every 5 Minutes (pt)
22:00 The Ticker (pt)
22:00 VIP (pt)
22:00 Tonight Show

SECOND SHOWING (8)

22:15 Love Songs (French, 1993) - a bisexual rock singer has an affair with a successful stage director on the rebound from a bad marriage.
22:20 The Escape Cause (1993) - a private investigator discovers that a woman he spent the night with stole secret information and used it to steal from drug dealers. With Joe Mantegna.
22:30 The Shadow Man (1997) - sci-fi thriller about a family's encounter with alien entities. With David Duchovny and Christopher Lambert.
22:40 The Clouds (1997) - musical biopic on the life of songwriter Jerome Kern, with a full-time Broadway cast, including Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne and Dinah Shore.

CHANNEL 8

8:00 Open University: Born Talking: The Politics of Food
8:00 The Next Step: 8:25 A Fork in the Road: San Francisco
8:05 The Beaches - opera
12:05 Anton Webern: The Shape of the World, part 3 (pt)
12:30 Rites of Passage: Coming of Age (pt)
12:45 Riverine
12:50 Valley Deep Mountain High (pt)
12:55 Human Nature
13:00 Open University: The Shape of the World, part 4
13:05 Rates of Passage: Death - rites around the world
13:10 Deadly Bugs
13:15 The Flying Classroom
13:20 The Flying Classroom
13:25 The Flying Classroom
13:30 The Flying Classroom
13:35 The Flying Classroom
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13:45 The Flying Classroom
13:50 The Flying Classroom
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15:00 The Flying Classroom

NBC EUROPE (1910)

7:00 Inspiration
8:00 Hour of Power
8:00 The Shape of the World, part 4
8:05 Rates of Passage: Death - rites around the world
8:10 Deadly Bugs
8:15 The Flying Classroom
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EUROSPORT (1910)

8:00 Kart FedEx Championships
11:00 Speed Skating
12:00 World Championship from Spain
14:00 Kart FedEx Championships
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